

What Does the Bible Say About Finances

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General – Finances/Money

- Money is an uncomfortable subject for some. Why?
- Bible has a lot to say about it
- A common issue in marriages
- United States is #8 GDP per capita country
 - Luxembourg, Switzerland, Macao, Norway, Ireland, Qatar, Iceland, USA
- Greed, coveting, materialism, worry are often rooted in wealth
- **1 Tim 6:9-10** Getting rich → temptation → fallen away

Parables - Jesus Spoke About Money

- **Parables of Jesus**
 - **Luke 15** Prodigal son, wasted inheritance
 - **Luke 12** Rich farmer who planned to tear down his barns
 - **Matt 18** Slave who owed his master
 - **Luke 16** Rich man and Lazarus
- Bible doesn't condemn being rich or poor, but gives warnings
- Agur – "give me neither poverty nor riches" **Prov 30:8-9**
- Observation – why didn't Jesus eliminate poverty?

Surveys Show

- We often spend more than we have
 - Credit card debt \$16k
 - Auto loan \$25k
 - Student loan \$49k
 - Average mortgage \$172k
- Although as a nation we are rich, we don't save a lot
 - 1/5 with no savings account, 1/3 have less than \$300
- Many live from paycheck to paycheck
- Rich – “making twice the amount I currently make”

Three Thoughts – God wants me to...

- To Be a Good **Steward**
 - Make Money Without Neglecting My Soul
- To Be **Generous**
 - Spend Money Without It Destroying My Life
- To Be **Content**
 - Save Money Without It Changing Your Character
- Easy to understand, often difficult to practice!
- Balance – extremes are dangerous

Stewardship

Make Money Without Neglecting your Soul

- Being a good manager
- Someone trustworthy, faithful to handle that entrusted to them
- Parable of the Talents **Matt 25**
- Involves understanding that money comes from God **1 Tim 6:17-19**
- Using money in a way that brings glory to God **1 Cor 10:31; Prov 3:9**
- Prodigal son – **Luke 15:13-14** “squandered” inheritance
- Joseph saved in good times **Gen 41** Lydia, a seller of purple fabrics **Acts 16:14** Abraham/Lot had extensive resources

Generosity

Spend Money Without Destroying Your Life

- What you own doesn't make you better or worse **Prov 22:2**
- **Rom 13:8** Pay off your debts
- Don't let stuff choke your faith out of you **Luke 8:14**
- Don't just spend only and always on yourself **Prov 13:22** Be kind to the needy **Prov 14:31**
- Obligations to others Look for opportunity to bless others with your wealth **Luke 10:37; Gal 6:10; 1 Tim 6:18; Eccl 11:1**

Contentment

Save Money Without it Changing Your Character

- Money is a blessing when viewed/used with wisdom **Prov 18:11**
- Save so you can bless your family through providing **1 Tim 5:8**
- Placing trust in money is failure **Matt 6:24; Prov 23:4-5**
- Save, but be content, satisfied. I am not defined by what I own
Luke 3:14; Phil 4:11; 1 Tim 6:6

Conclusion

- So... Make money, spend money, and save money, but never love it! **Heb 13:5; 1 Tim 6:10**
- The real question to ask: Do you have your money (and pursuit of it) under control – surrender to the will of God... *J Shouse*