

The Christian and His Finances

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

- A. There is a great need for direction on the use of finances today.
- B. God's standards for the Christian's finances.

II. The right to possess money.

- A. All money belongs to God. (Haggai 2:8, Deuteronomy 8:18, I Corinthians 4:7)
- B. God gives men the power to gain that money, which is His. (I Timothy 4, 6:17, Isaiah 2:6, Deuteronomy 8:17)
- C. Nowhere is money condemned. (Acts 2:47, 4:34)
- D. God wants to bless men with a certain amount of wealth. (Proverbs 14:23, II Thessalonians 3:10, Proverbs 20:4, I Timothy 5:8)
 - 1. The Bible teaches to save. (Proverbs 21:20)
 - 2. God wants you to have more money than you need because of the principle of saving.
- E. Plan by budgeting or by keeping records. (Proverbs 23:23-24, Proverbs 24:3-4, Romans 13:8, Proverbs 22:7, I Corinthians 7:23, Proverbs 17:18)
- F. Test: Do you need more money? Is God testing your faith? Did you already misuse what God has given you? Did you violate biblical principals? (e.g., hastiness, stubbornness, laziness, indulgence, craftiness, Proverbs 11:24, 21:5, Philippians 4:19, Proverbs 13:8, 20:13, 23:21, 28:19)

III. The way to regard money.

- A. The question that is important is doing more with what one has, not having more to do more with. (Ecclesiastes 5:10-11, Matthew 10:23)
- B. The love of money is the root of all evil--it is an attitude question. (I Timothy 6:10)
 - 1. Contentment is key. (Hebrews 13:5-6)
 - 2. When a person loves money, he is useless to God.

3. Loving money leads people to forget God. (Proverbs 30:8-9)
4. Loving money leads people to stop trusting God. (Job 31:34-38, Proverbs 11:28, I Timothy 6:17)
5. Loving money leads people to deception. (Mark 4:19)
6. Loving money leads people to the place of compromising biblical instruction. (Matthew 6:33)
7. Loving money leads to unstable foundations. (Proverbs 23:24-25)
8. Loving money leads to ungratefulness. (Deuteronomy 18:12-14)
9. Loving money leads to pride. (Proverbs 12)
10. Loving money leads to robbing God. (Malachi 3:8, I John 3:17)

C. The wrong attitude toward money is to love it. The right attitude is to recognize that it is God's.

IV. The way to use money.

A. Recognize stewardship. (I Corinthians 4:2, II Corinthians 8:5)

1. Giving is not God's way of raising money--it is His way of raising children.
2. Money is to be given to the church for eternal investment and as there is a need. (II Corinthians 9, Acts 4, 11:27, II Corinthians 9:7, I Corinthians 16:2)
3. Giving should be sacrificial. Tithing is not a New Testament principle.
4. Giving should be secret.

V. Conclusion. (Luke 16:10)

Application questions:

1. Which result of loving money do you see most prevalent in our society?

2. How would you respond to someone saying that one should not plan financially but always act in faith? Explain.

3. What is your plan for giving self-sacrificially? Explain.
