

CLEAR THINKING ABOUT FINANCES

If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth,
who will trust you with true riches?
Luke 16:11 (NIV)

We begin this New Year engaged in a series of studies intended to help us think and act more Biblically in key areas of life. We have examined problems and relationships. Today, we address the area that causes more confused thinking than almost any other, finances. The scary truth is that our personal responsibility with our finances determines how much God can bless our lives. Finances are tests of our character.

FIVE HABITS FOR FINANCIAL FREEDOM

1. EARN an H_____ L_____ The Principle of WORK

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we appeal to people - no, we command them: Settle down and get to work. Earn your own living. 2 Thessalonians 3:12 (NLT)

2. PLAN your S_____ The Principle of BUDGETING

Riches can disappear fast ... so watch your business interests closely. Know the state of your flocks and herds. Proverbs 27:23,24 (LB)

Get the facts at any price! Proverbs 23:23 (LB)

Plan carefully and you will have plenty; if you act too quickly you will never have enough.
Proverbs 21:5 (GN)

Stupid people spend their money as fast as they get it. Proverbs 21:20b ((GN)

3. SAVE for the F_____ The Principle of INVESTING

The wise man saves for the future. Proverbs 21:20a (LB)

Money that comes easily disappears quickly, but money that is gathered little by little will grow.
Proverbs 13:11 (NCV)

4. RETURN 10% B_____ to G_____ The Principle of TITHING

Bring to My Storehouse a full tenth of what you earn ... Test Me in this, says the Lord. I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour out all the blessings you need. Malachi 3:10 (NCV)

On every Lord's Day you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for this offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn.
1 Corinthians 16:2 (LB)

Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income, and He will fill your barns ... to overflow. Proverbs 3:9, 10 (LB)

5. ENJOY what I H_____ The Principle of CONTENTMENT

It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to always be wanting something else.
Ecclesiastes 6:9 (GN)

Be content with what you have. Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

Why spend money on what does not satisfy? Isaiah 55:2 (NIV)

If I have put my trust in money, if my happiness depends on wealth ... it would mean that I denied the God of heaven. Job 31:24, 28 (LB)

