

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



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Thought Provoking Insights on Finances

I am very conscientious before the Lord about money. The Bible speaks a lot about money. Books could be written on these subjects based upon what the Bible says about it.



The Danger of Hoarding it. **Proverbs 11:24-26, I John 3:17**

The Foolishness of Loving it. **Ecclesiastes 5:13-14, Luke 12:15-20**

The Bane of Cheating God. **Malachi 3:8-12, Haggai 1:2-11**

How Difficult for the Rich to Enter Heaven. **Matthew 19:23-25, Luke 6:24**

The Curse of Being Double-minded. **Luke 16:13-26**

The Deceitfulness of it. **Proverbs 23:4-5, Matthew 6:19-21, Matthew 13:22, Mark 4:19**

The Vanity of it. **Psalms 49:16-18, Psalms 52:6-7, Ecclesiastes 6:1-2, Zepheniah 1:18**

The Putting of Confidence in it. **Job 31:24-28**

The Folly of Obtaining it Deceitfully. **Jeremiah 17:11, 22:13, Proverbs 21:6**

The Admonition to the Rich. **I Timothy 6:17-19, James 5:1-2**

The Danger of it Making you Forget God. **Deuteronomy 6:10-12, 8:10-16, Proverbs 30:8-9**

The Origin of the Power to Get it. **Proverbs 10:22, Deuteronomy 8:22**

The Need to be Diligent About Riches. **Proverbs 27:23-24**

The Danger of Trying to Get Rich Fast. **Proverbs 28:22, I Timothy 6:9-11**

The Pursuit of it can make us Unfruitful. **Mark 4:1-19**

Many more ideas are expressed about money.

Jesus said more about money than He said about Heaven or hell. 11 of His 39 parables were about money. 1 out of 7 verses in the Gospel are about money but we should not be pre-occupied with money.

But there are four things regarding money that I don't find many people thinking about.

FIRST – We are only stewards of what God has bestowed upon us. It is not ours, but we have been given things for our use for Him while we are here. It is required of a steward to be faithful. **I Corinthians 4:2**

Furthermore, we have to give an account of our stewardship. What we are forgetting is that when we die, it must be returned to the Lord's Kingdom's work. **Luke 16:2**

It is true that a good man layeth up for his children's children. However, they need to be Kingdom people who will continue to be faithful stewards of what is His.

What would you think of a runner at the end of his stint giving the wand to a person not on his own team in a relay race? Many Christians do that very thing.

Is it moral or good stewardship to give what God has entrusted to you, to those not involved in His Kingdom? I have often admired those who have purchased Annuities from me who refused to make disobedient or non-Christian children their heirs.

Not passing your money on to them is a wonderful time to let your family, that you love deeply, know that you are a steward of all you own and must return it to those who are doing God's work.

A **SECOND** thing that has always bothered me are those who purchased their home at one price and yet when they sell it do not tithe on their increase. When are they going to give God the tithe on the increase of their growth?

For example, someone purchases a home for \$40,000.00 and sells it for \$100,000.00. Don't forget the taxes, interest, and repairs are not part of the investment. You do not deduct taxes, interest, and repairs on your car before you pay tithes and offerings. Why do so on your house?

A **THIRD** thing that I don't understand is one inheriting money (which is an increase to you) and not giving God His portion of the increase for the evangelizing of the world. Do not say, "My parents already tithed on it." This is your increase, not theirs and God's Kingdom needs you to give toward it.

A **FOURTH** thing is loaning money at interest to the God who gave it to you in the first place. He gave it to you to be a steward for His work.

If the institution you are loaning the money to is worthy of God's money to do His work, why would you loan God His own money? If God forbids us to charge our brother interest, why would it be okay to loan money to your Heavenly Father, whose it is?

These are things I want to challenge you to think and pray about.

Malachi asks, "Will a man rob God"? The above four points are ways I believe many Christians do rob God.

Imagine that you are the manager and cashier of a store and you are responsible for all the money in the cash register and the stock on the shelves. The owner tells you to be a good steward and to take your needs from the stock and drawer until he returns.

Would you not want to give him a good account of the stewardship of the stock and cash?

Would you gamble with the cash in the drawer or make deposits from the profits into a competitors bank account?

Then don't do that with that which God made you His steward. "It is required of a steward to be faithful."

I Corinthians 4:2