

Session 1

What Is Wealth?



"Thou dost make him to rule over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet" (Psalm 8:6).

The Christian's Wealth

Above all else, God is concerned with our *attitude*. The abundance or the lack of money does not affect our relationship to Him—only our attitude does.

The Christian must be able to trust God in every circumstance, believing that He loves us and gives us only the stewardship we can handle without being tempted beyond that which we can withstand. Because of its tangibility, money is a testing ground before God of our *true* willingness to surrender self to Him.

Wealth is neither *moral nor immoral*. There is no inherent virtue in poverty—there are dishonest poor as well as rich. God condemns the misuse of or preoccupation with wealth — not the wealth itself. The production of wealth is implied in Romans 12:5, 8 where the gift of giving is listed as a spiritual gift.



How can Christians recognize the proper attitude toward wealth when so much "folklore" surrounds this *area*? By understanding and accepting God's attitudes

What Is Wealth?

God's Definition of Wealth

Do you equate money with wealth? What about other possessions such as cars, houses, or clothes?

Have you ever wondered why God makes us work on this earth? Why doesn't He simply supply our needs as He did Adam and Eve?



INDEPTH DISCUSSION ON HOW TO MANAGE YOUR MONEY

1. What is wealth? God's definition of wealth.

- a. Genesis 3:19 What does it mean to you?
- b. Proverbs 10:22 Explain how it applies to our lives.
- c. 2 Peter 3:11 Evaluate the following verses in light of seeking a proper attitude .
- d. Matthew 6:19-20
- e. Proverbs 11:28

2. The Christian's Wealth.

- a. 1 Timothy 6:17 (6:7-10) What does God say about money and happiness?
- b. Psalms 17:15
- c. Proverbs 11:4

3. Does God condemn the wealthy?

- a. Psalms 8:6
- b. Proverbs 28:12
- c. Proverbs 22:4

4. What Attitude does God expect from us?

- a. Proverbs 3:5
- b. Proverbs 3:16,17,19
- c. Proverbs 3:4-6
- d. 2 Peter 1:6

5. What can we expect from Him?

- a. Proverbs 8:18
- b. Proverbs 9:11

6. How does God define the real danger of money?

- a. 1 Timothy 6:10
- b. Matthew 19:23

Session 2

God's Will in Finances!



GOD'S WILL IN FINANCES

1. Stewardship: A steward is one who manages the property of another.

Matthew 25:14-30 Review and evaluate.

- (1) To what did Christ equate this parable?
- (2) Why was each given a different amount ?
- (3) Did the owner ask all to earn the same ?
- (4) How were the two faithful servants rewarded ?
- (5) What happened to the last ?
- (6) What the key to this parable ?

2. Compare the parable of the steward with that found in Luke 12:16-20.

- a. How is the farmer described ?
- b. Did God object to his wealth ?
- c. Where did the farmer go wrong ?
- d. Why did God rebuke him ?

3. Read and describe the elements of becoming God's steward in Luke 12:25-34

- a. v.25,26 -How does God assess our abilities as owners?
- b. v.27,31 -What is God's promise to us ?
- c. v.32 -What should our attitude be ?
- d. v.33 -What does God ask of us ?
- e. v. 34 -Why ?

4. How God uses finances to instruct us.

- a. Trust - Matthew 6:32,33 State the promise given us in your own words.
- b. What is the prerequisite for its being fulfilled ?
- c. For what can we trust God if we are in his will ? Mark 11:24
- d. Trustworthiness: Luke 16:11
- e. Love - What does Matthew 7:11 promise ?
- f. Power - Romans 10:11,12 God wants to show us that he can do what says

Session 3

The Perils of Money

"Which of you *by* being anxious can add a single cubit to his life's span?" (Matthew 6:27).

God's Will in Finances

1. Stewardship

The key to understanding God's will in finances is the proper understanding of *stewardship*. By Webster's definition, a steward is "one who manages another's property." We are merely stewards of God's property while we are on earth. He can choose to entrust us with as much or as little as *He* desires, but in no case will we ever take ownership.



If we Christians can accept that role as stewards and manage God's resources according to His direction, God will continue to entrust us with even more. But why would He entrust more property to one who began to hoard and who felt he was the owner? Moreover, until the Christian acknowledges God's total ownership, he can't experience God's direction in financial management.

2. How God Uses Finances

God uses money in a Christian's life to direct him. If we are seeking His wisdom, He promises to supply it. But understand that God's will is not always coincidental with our wishes. God will often withhold funds in order to teach us a lesson. Too often Christians strike out on their own without clear direction from God. Not only does that violate the principle expressed in Matthew 4:7, which states, "Jesus said to *him*, '*On the other hand, it is written, you shall not tempt the Lord your God,*' " but those who do it regularly have also not *truly* accepted God's wisdom as superior.

This study will help you discover the irrefutable wisdom in handling money God's way and how He uses it to instruct us..

