



SECTION I – LESSON #3

SUMMARY:

This lesson focuses on the principles that provide a biblical basis for dealing with our finances that, when applied, will pave the way for us living and walking in financial freedom.

MAIN LESSON IDEAS:

- Worldly wisdom equates money with success and significance, whereas Biblical success is defined as obedience and alignment with the will and ways of God.
- Scripture identifies distinctives between “wealth,” “riches,” and “money.”
- Stewardship is the key to a wise view of money and its relationship to our standard of living.
- The “closed circle” concept and knowing how to properly operate within it, open up new worlds of possible blessing, both personally and philanthropically.

Walking in Financial Freedom

by Dr. Gerald Chester

I. Worldly Wisdom Is Deceptive

A. Success and security

1. Worldly wisdom: money = success
2. Biblical wisdom: money ≠ success

- a. *God shall likewise destroy you (Doeg the Edomite) forever; He shall take you away, and pluck you out of [your] dwelling place, and uproot you from the land of the living. Selah The righteous also shall see and fear, and shall laugh at him, [saying], “Here is the man [who] did not make God his strength, but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and] strengthened himself in his wickedness.” –Psalm 52:5–7 NKJV (see also Psalm 73)*
- b. Success is obedience to the will and ways of God
- c. *I have glorified you on the earth. I have finished the work which you have given me to do. –John 17:4 NKJV*

3. Worldly wisdom: Money = Security
4. Biblical wisdom: Money ≠ Security
 - a. *Because you say, "I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing"—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked... –Revelation 3:17 NKJV*
5. Worldly wisdom: Money = Significance
6. Biblical wisdom: Money ≠ Significance
 - a. *My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, [the Lord] of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world [to be] rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? –James 2:1–5 NKJV*
 - b. *Significance is that which is important to God (Luke 12:15–21)*

II. Stewardship (οἰκοζ)

- A. Stewardship is the key to a wise view of money.
- B. All resources belong to the Lord
 1. *The earth [is] the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. – Psalm 24:1 NKJV*
 2. *For every beast of the forest [is] Mine, [And] the cattle on a thousand hills. – Psalm 50:10 NKJV*
 3. *'Your silver and your gold [are] mine. . . ' – 1 Kings 20:3 NKJV (Haggai 2:8)*
- C. We are simply stewards
 1. *Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. ... For who makes you differ [from another]? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive [it], why do you boast as if you had not received [it]? –1 Corinthians 4:1-2, 7 NKJV*
- D. As stewards, the Master sets our standard of living (defines the closed circle (i.e., standard of living))

1. If anyone could have self-defined their standard of living, Jesus could have. During his final phase of life, he was an itinerate teacher who lived off the charity of others. Indeed, the Father set his standard of living.
2. *...These women were helping to support them (Jesus and the twelve) out of their own means. –Luke 8:3 NIV*
3. *Stewards recognize that the master sets their standard of living. –Luke 17:5–10*

E. A key principle of stewardship: sowing and reaping (giving and receiving)

1. *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. –Galatians 6:7 NKJV*
2. *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. –Matthew 6 : 33 NIV*

III. Wealth and Riches

A. Tangible assets (sometimes call riches)

1. Real estate (Genesis 15:1,7)
2. People (Genesis 15:1,5)
3. Gold and silver (Genesis 13:2)
4. Livestock (Genesis 13:2)
5. Political, economic, and family favor (Deuteronomy 28)

B. Maxims: Deuteronomy 28; Psalms 1 (exception see Psalm 73)



C. Intangible assets (sometimes called wealth) (more valuable than tangible, Luke 12:16–21)

1. Fear of the Lord and decrees of the Lord (Psalm 19:9–10)
2. Law of God (Psalm 119:72)
3. Instruction (Proverbs 8:10)
4. Righteousness (Proverbs 11:4)
5. Wisdom (Proverbs 8:10–11)

6. Reputation (Proverbs 22:1)
7. Respect (Proverbs 11:16)
8. Godliness with contentment (1 Timothy 6:6–7)
9. Genuine faith (1 Peter 1:7)

IV. Money

A. Money is a training tool

1. Money is a medium of exchange and valuation that reflects division of labor
2. *“You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year.” And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. “But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry [the tithe, or] if the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you, “then you shall exchange [it] for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses.” And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household. –Deuteronomy 14:22–26 NKJV*
3. *Now as they heard these things, He (Jesus) spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. ... “And he said to him, ‘Well [done], good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten Cities.’ –Luke 19:11, 17 NKJV*

B. Money is a Tool of Obedience

1. Money is a tool of (provision for) alignment with the will and ways of God
 - a. *“But seek first the kingdom of God (i.e., the will of God) and His righteousness (i.e., the ways of God), and all these things shall be added to you. –Matthew 6:33 NKJV*
2. Money is a temporal tool to facilitate the process of sanctification
 - b. *Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and*

[into] many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all [kinds of] evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. –1 Timothy 6:6–12 NKJV

C. The Mammon Spirit

1. Behind money is the mammon spirit.
 - a. *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. –Matthew 6:24 NKJV*
2. Tangible riches can block the fruitfulness of the Word in our lives
 - a. *The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth (πλοῦτος: abundance of external possessions) choke the word, making it unfruitful. –Matthew 13:22 NIV*
3. The love of (friendship with) money is a root of all kinds of evil
 - a. *For the love of money (φιλαργυρία: love of silver) is a root of all [kinds of] evil, for which some have strayed (ἀποπλανάω: to be led away from truth into error) from the faith in their greediness, and pierced (περιπείρω: pierce through; metaph., to torture one’s soul) themselves through with many sorrows (ὀδύνη: consuming grief, pain, sorrow). –1 Timothy 6:10 NKJV*

V. Five Uses of Money (Closed Circle)

- A. Five priorities for the biblical use of money (A biblical way to define your closed circle and answer the questions “how much is enough?” and “who defines your standard of living?”)
 1. Tithing
 - a. *And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tithe of all. –Genesis 14:20 NKJV*
 2. Giving (sowing and reaping intangible wealth)

- a. *“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” –Luke 6:38 NKJV*
3. Taxes
 - a. *And Jesus answered and said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they marveled at Him. –Mark 12:17 NKJV (see also Romans 13)*
4. Saving/investing (sowing and reaping tangible wealth)
 - a. *The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down. –Proverbs 21:20 NIV*
 - b. *Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well. –Ecclesiastes 11:6 NIV*
5. Personal expenses
 - a. *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. –Matthew 6:33 NKJV*
 - b. *The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked. –Proverbs 10:3 NIV*

For additional perspective and further study on Kingdom finances, please see Earl Pitt’s series, *Walking in Financial Freedom*, or his book, *Wealth, Riches & Money*. Available at: www.gostrategic.org/store