

FINANCIAL PEACE DURING TURBULENT TIMES

“Getting the Role Right”



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Introduction: Last week we saw the results of living in a materialistic society and how Satan subtly wants to entrap us into a consumptive lifestyle. We saw that using God's resources for God's glory could provide us with peace even during hard economic times (Haggai 1 – 2). Today we will see why God has so much to say about money and His role in how we make financial decisions.

I. God's Resourceful Role

1) God created everything.

Genesis. 1:1 > Heaven and the Earth

Nehemiah 9:6 > 'the heavens, the earth, the sea and all that is in them.'

Jeremiah 27:5 > the earth, man and the beast.

2) God owns everything

Deuteronomy 10:14 > the heavens, the earth and all therein

Psalms 24:1 > earth, the world and they that dwell therein

I Corinthians 10:26, 28 > earth and its contents are the Lord's

Haggai 2:8 > silver and gold

3) God provides the harvest

I Chronicles 29:11-12 > possessions and positions are God provided.

I Corinthians 3:5-8 > only God provides the harvest

4) God allocates His resources

Matthew 25:14-29>

5) God allows for repossessions

Job 1:1-22 >

*The creator, owner and provider of everything has the right to entrust or remove resources as He sees fit.

II. Our rightful Response

Three ways that God uses money in our lives:

1) As a test prior to entrusting us with eternal riches (Luke 16:11-12).

2) As a testimony of our attitude and actions to the lost world.
(Matt. 5:13-16, Eph. 5:8)

- 3) As a tool to teach us contentment (Phil. 4:11-12).
- No one is born content, it is a learned behavior.
 - Contentment can be learned through times of leanness or times of abundance.
 - Godly contentment is satisfied in food and clothing (I Tim. 6:8).
 - Being content is choosing a manner of life without desiring more (Heb. 13:5).
 - Lack of contentment can keep us from fulfilling our mission (III John 10 – 11).

I know I'm content when:

- *I have the right attitude toward those with more
- *My actions toward God and others is Godly when things are taken away
- *My lifestyle doesn't change when my income increases
- *I get greater joy from giving than getting

Summary: When we see God in His rightful role in our finances as the creator, owner, provider, allocator and reposessor of resources. We understand our role in financial management is a test for true riches, a testimony to the lost world and a tool to teach us contentment.

Practical Application:

- Attitudes and actions are the heart stress test.
- Result is peace, contentment and biblical decision making.
- Every financial decision is a spiritual decision. (Better check with the owner first because you will give an account later.)

Action Plan:

- Memory verse: I Chron. 29:12
- Read pages 16-17 and complete form #2.