

Back to Basics – Financial Management

1 Peter 2:1-10

the issue of financial management is new and one which often we keep close control over

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson

Give away my wealth, then follow you
HA, HA.. Very funny, now seriously
what should I do?



The 'Rich Young Ruler' debates money management philosophies with Jesus Christ, **Matthew 19**

e
text...

The issue of finance makes people uncomfortable - It defines where our security is based – in God or the Bank Balance

Our attitude to money reflects our priorities and reflects on our profession of “Jesus as Lord”

The reality – congregations need sustainable funding to be operational

How do we respond? What is the financial strategy we discuss with Jesus? – or do we even discuss it with Him?

John Wesley (at his height earned £1,400 but lived on £30 a year and gave the rest away)

“What should rise is not the Christian’s standard of living, but his standard of giving.”

“I was thus led to the determination to set apart not less than one-tenth of whatever moneys I might earn or become possessed of for the Lord’s service.” - Hudson Taylor

"But what is very significant is this, that in each great revival of godliness that [God] sent to Israel, tithing is one of the things that is mentioned as being renewed and restored among the people."
- A.W. Pink

What Guidelines
Does Scripture
Provide to help us
Understand
Financial
Management?

1. The concept of Stewardship

Realising that what we have is never really ours...

⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. (1 Tim 6:7-8)

We are responsible for what we have and how we use it.

2. The standard of tithing

The tithe – 10% of the income of the people of God – Presented to YHWH and given to the Levites (who had to give the tithe)

Example of Abraham – Heb 7 – the tithe covers everything,

The tithe didn't take into account additional sacrifices and offerings

3. Having right priorities

Jesus – Lord of our wallet and our bank balance?

We all find time and money for what is important to us and how we use our time and money reflects our priorities

Haggai 1

Being aware that YHWH saw the failure of the people of God to tithe as stealing from Him (Malachi 3)

Does this apply today? What does the New Testament say? - The issue of tithing appears only twice in the gospel stories

1. Jesus criticism of the Pharisees for their emphasis on tithing everything but ignoring justice and love (L 11: 42)

“Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. *You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone*”

Jesus accepts tithing as a component part of religious life

2. Luke 18: 11-12 The Pharisee and tax collector – tithing with the wrong attitude does not bring righteousness

Jesus takes us beyond tithing – beyond 10%

Luke 18:18-24 Jesus and the ruler – command to go beyond tithing and give away his wealth and then follow Jesus

Striking at the heart of his security

Calling for discipleship and obedience and single focused commitment in every area of life

example
trust...

Faith in action...

Luke 21 - As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³ "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others." ⁴ All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

The opposite response to the ruler that debates with Jesus

Faith in action – trusting God – giving more than the 10

What is your financial strategy you discuss with Jesus?

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summary...

resumen...

What would Jesus say to us about our finances?...

Wrong priorities - as in Haggai?

Stealing from Me – as in Malachi?

Giving out of your excess but not trusting Me – as in Luke?

Trusting me – like the widow?

Where your treasure is...

...is the place where your heart is

Our attitude to money and giving to God reflects our
attitude to the Kingdom of God

Jesus is no
man's debtor,
He seeks to
be Lord of all
our life

Let's Honor The Lord With Our Giving

*"Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
And whoever sows generously will also reap generously."*

2 Corinthians 9:6



