

Christians and Our Finances – January 2022

Schedule –

- Week 1 - Biblical perspective on finance and introduction to a Budgeting Template
- Week 2 – Work/spending and discussion of the Budgeting Template
- Week 3 – Debt and borrowing
- Week 4 – Saving and future planning

Money Debt And Finances - Jim Newheiser- Christian businessman; Westminster Seminary in California; church pastor; Director of the Christian Counseling Program and Associate Professor of Christian Counseling and Pastoral Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary - Charlotte.

Proverbs 14:15 “The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps.”

James 1:5 – “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

2 Chronicles 20:12 – “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

Scripture

Great commandment – Matthew 22:37-40 – “And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’”

Hebrews 5:14 – “But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”

Psalms 119:66 – “Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.”

Psalms 25:12-13 – “Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.”

Psalms 119:14 – “In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.”

Westminster Confession of Faith – 1.6 The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man’s salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture.

2 Peter 1:3-11 – “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Christians and Our Finances – January 2022

A Broad Biblical Perspective on Economics

1. God is the owner and source of all wealth

Deuteronomy 8:18 – “You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 “Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and your rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.”

Psalm 24:1 – “The earth is the LORD’s and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.”

Psalm 50:10-11 – “For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.”

Haggai 2:8 – “The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts.”

Forever Settled in the Heavens – Trinity Hymnal #59 – v.2 Thy word and works unmoved remain, thine every purpose to fulfill; all things are thine and thee obey, and all as servants wait thy will.

2. The fall of humankind has made resources scarce and labor hard

Genesis 3:17-19 – “And to Adam he said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Consequences of the fall:

Much financial suffering occurs because creation is fallen.

Some financial suffering occurs because of the sins of others.

Sometimes we suffer financially because of our own sin.

Some financial suffering is the direct judgment of God on sin.

God sometimes allows financial suffering for our good and his glory.

One day our financial problems will be over.

God offers help to his people in the midst of financial troubles in a fallen world.

Membership in Gods covenant community lessens the fall’s effects

The Gospel changes everything.

3. We are managers (stewards) of God’s wealth

Matthew 25:14-29 (the parable of the talents) – “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more. His master said to him,

Christians and Our Finances – January 2022

‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more. His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not so, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Luke 16:10-11 – “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?”

1 Corinthians 4:2 – “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they must be found faithful.”

4. Your wealth reveals your character

Luke 16:11 – “If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?”

Proverbs 3:5-10

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

⁷Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

⁸It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;

¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

God’s provision is perfect

Philippians 4:19 – “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Matthew 6:25-33 – “Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Christians and Our Finances – January 2022

Contentment –

Ecclesiastes 5:10, 19 – He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. . . . Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God.

1 Timothy 6:7-9 – But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

Hebrews 13:5 – Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Gen 28:20 – Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.”

Psalms 119:72 – The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

Psalms 90:14 – Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Ecclesiastes 7:14 – “In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other.”

Proverbs 14:30 – “A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.”

Exodus 16:7-8 – “and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?’ And Moses said, ‘When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.’”

Coveting

Luke 12:15 – “And he said to them, ‘Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’”

Romans 13:9 – “For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery. You shall not murder. You shall not steal. You shall not covet,’ and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 146. *Which is the tenth commandment?*

A. The tenth commandment is, *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbors wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor’s.*

Q. 147. *What are the duties required in the tenth commandment?*

A. The duties required in the tenth commandment are, such a full contentment with our own condition, and such a charitable frame of the whole soul toward our neighbor, as that all our inward motions and affections touching him, tend unto, and further all that good which is his.

Christians and Our Finances – January 2022

Q. 148. *What are the sins forbidden in the tenth commandment?*

A. The sins forbidden in the tenth commandment are, discontentment with our own estate; envying and grieving at the good of our neighbor, together with all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

“Covetousness is at the heart of all bad economics” – David Bahnsen (portfolio manager, author, television commentator, and son of Greg Bahnsen)