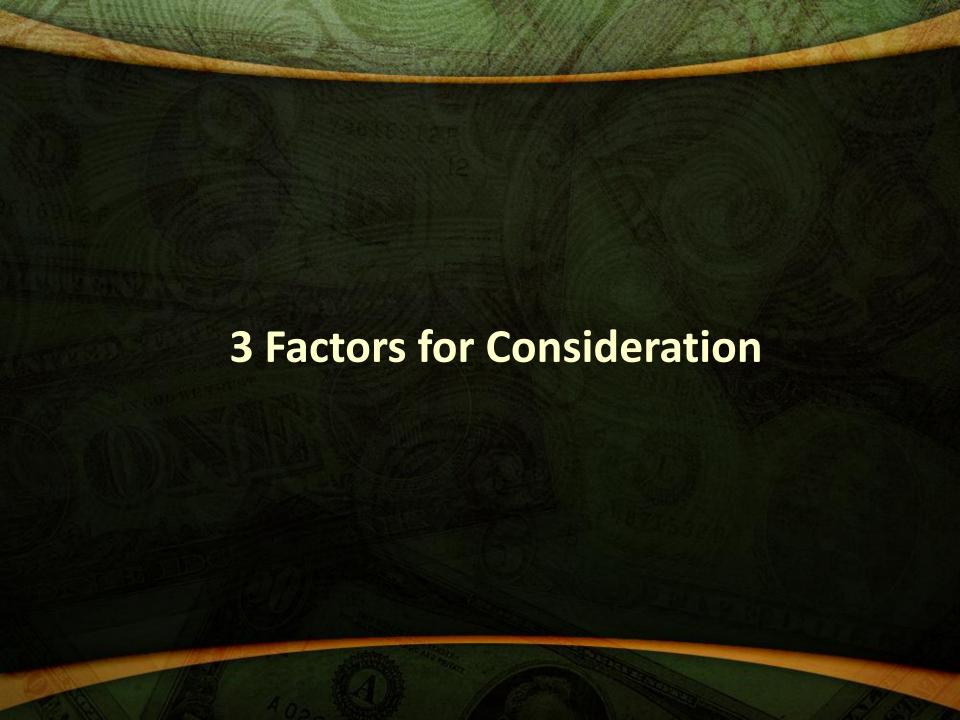
MANAGING BUSINESS FINANCES IN THE END TIME

G. Edward Reid



I. Character of the Saints

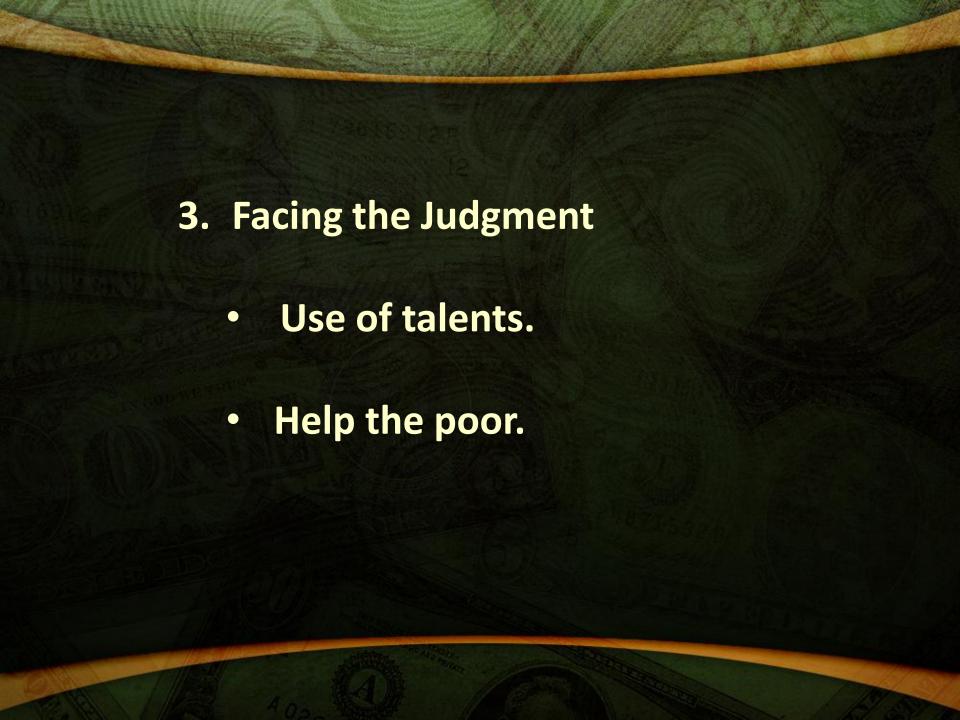
Transformed from selfish to loving.
 Spiritual maturity.

Planning to leave here soon.

2. Needs of the Work

 An all out effort to reach the world for Jesus.

Must work while we can.



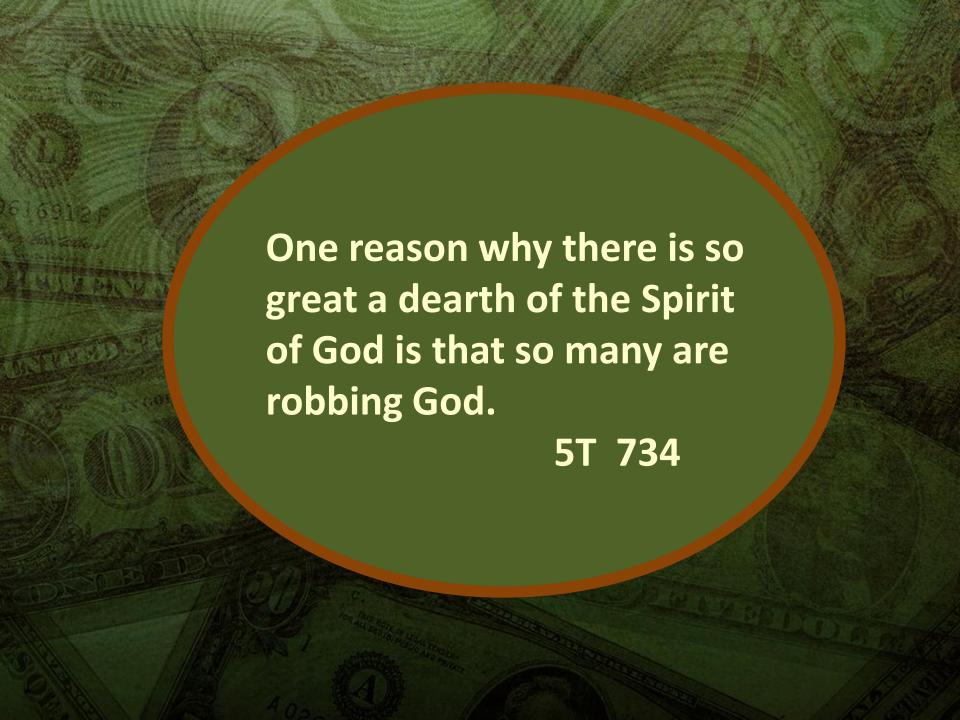
You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes. Haggai 1:6

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come; for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

2 Timothy 3:1-5

Practical benevolence will give spiritual life to thousands of nominal professors of the truth who now mourn over their darkness. It will transform them from selfish, covetous worshipers of mammon, to earnest, faithful coworkers with Christ in the salvation of sinners.

3T 387



Dimensions of Stewardship Maturity



Basic Expression of Faithfulness:

Your commitment of prayers, presence, gifts and service.

Dimensions of Stewardship Maturity

Growing Expression of Faithfulness:

Rearranging your priorities to give.

Basic Expression of Faithfulness:

Your commitment of prayers, presence, gifts and service.

Phases in a Life of Faithful Stewardship

Major Giving

- Land purchase
- New facilities
- Renovation
- Debt reduction
- Mission opportunities
- Cash for Endowment

Annual Giving

- Regular giving
- Special offerings and projects
- Budget development and communication
- Stewardship education for all ages
- Financial policies

Dimensions of Stewardship Maturity

Oltimate Expression of a Life of Faithfulness: Your
commitment to a legacy, a
testimony that will endure.

Growing Expression of Faithfulness:
Rearranging your priorities to give.

Basic Expression of Faithfulness:

Your commitment of prayers, presence, gifts and service.

/ <u>Estate or</u> <u>Planned Giving</u>

- Bequests
- Planned Gifts

Phases in a Life of Faithful Stewardship

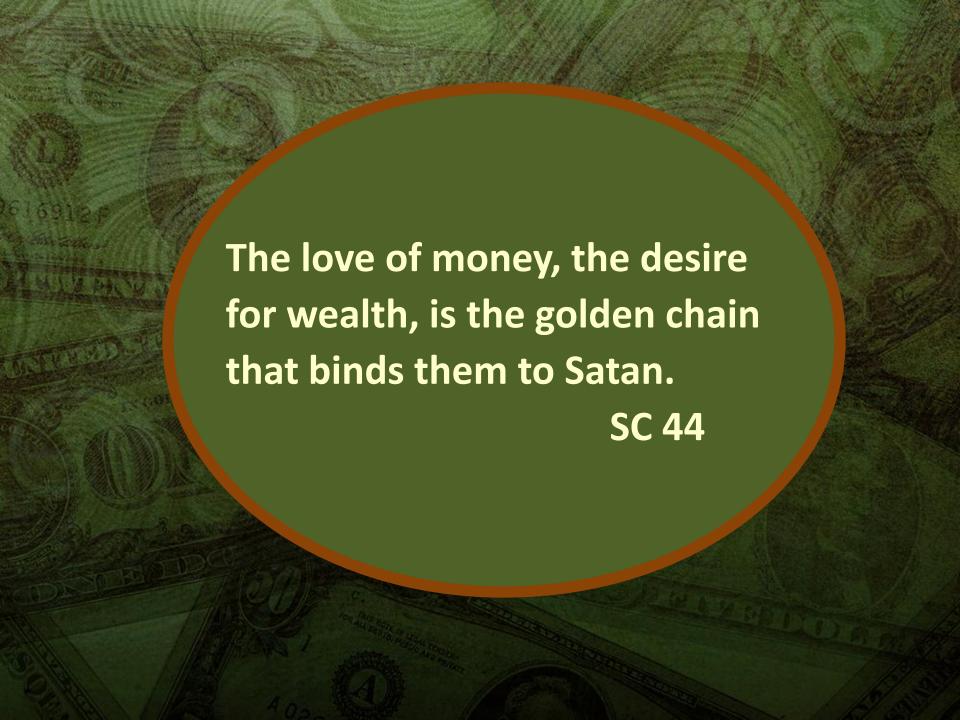
Major Giving

- Land purchase
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- Mission opportunities
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Annual Giving

- Regular giving
- Special offerings and projects
- Budget development and communication
- Stewardship education for all ages
- Financial policies

Time is rapidly passing into eternity. Let us not refuse him that which, though it cannot be given with merit, cannot be denied without ruin. He asks for a whole heart; give it to Him; it is His, both by creation and by redemption. He asks for your intellect; give it to Him; it is His. He asks for your money; give it to Him; it is His. "Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price." 1Corinthians 6:19, 20.



No scheme of business or plan of life can be sound or complete that embraces only the brief years of this present life and makes no provision for the unending future.

Ed 145



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



Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves to whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?

Romans 6:16

It is NOW that our brethren should be cutting down their possessions instead of increasing them. We are about to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Then let us not be dwellers upon the earth, but be getting things into as compact a compass as possible. CS 59 (Rev 13:17)

The work of God is to become more extensive, and if His people follow His counsel, there will not be much means in their possession to be consumed in the final conflagration. All will have laid up their treasure where moth and rust cannot corrupt; and the heart will not have a cord to bind it to earth.

1T 197 {CS 60.3}



The very means that is now so sparingly invested in the cause of God, and that is selfishly retained, will in a little while be cast with all idols to the moles and to the bats. Money will soon depreciate in value very suddenly when the reality of eternal scenes opens to the senses of man. Ev 63 (Isa. 2:20)

Poverty is coming upon the world, and there will be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.

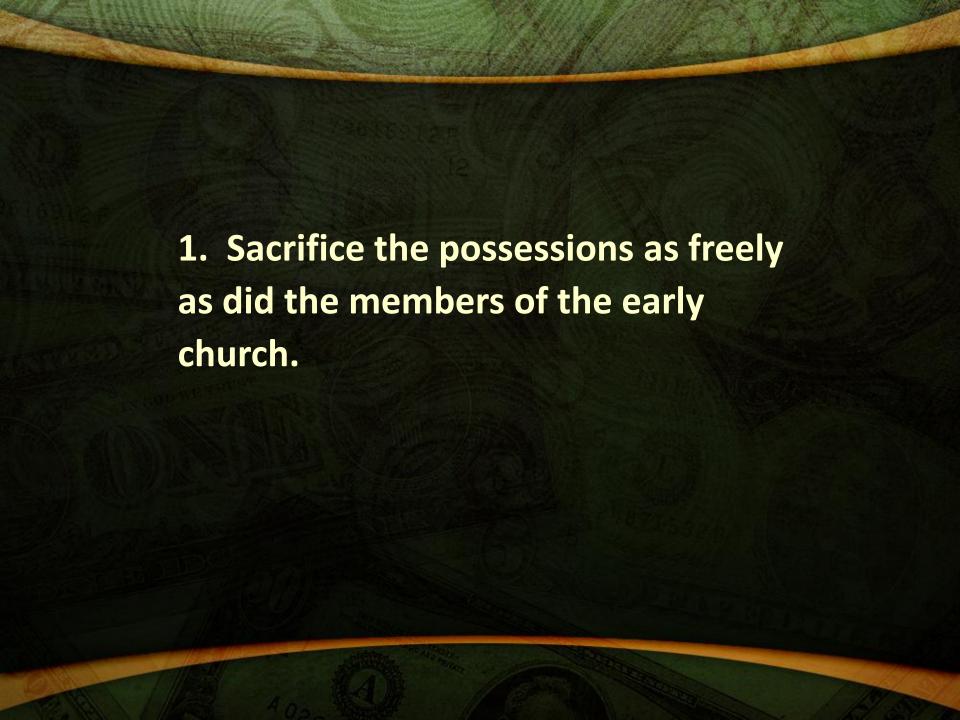
Ev 240, 241 (Dan.12:1)

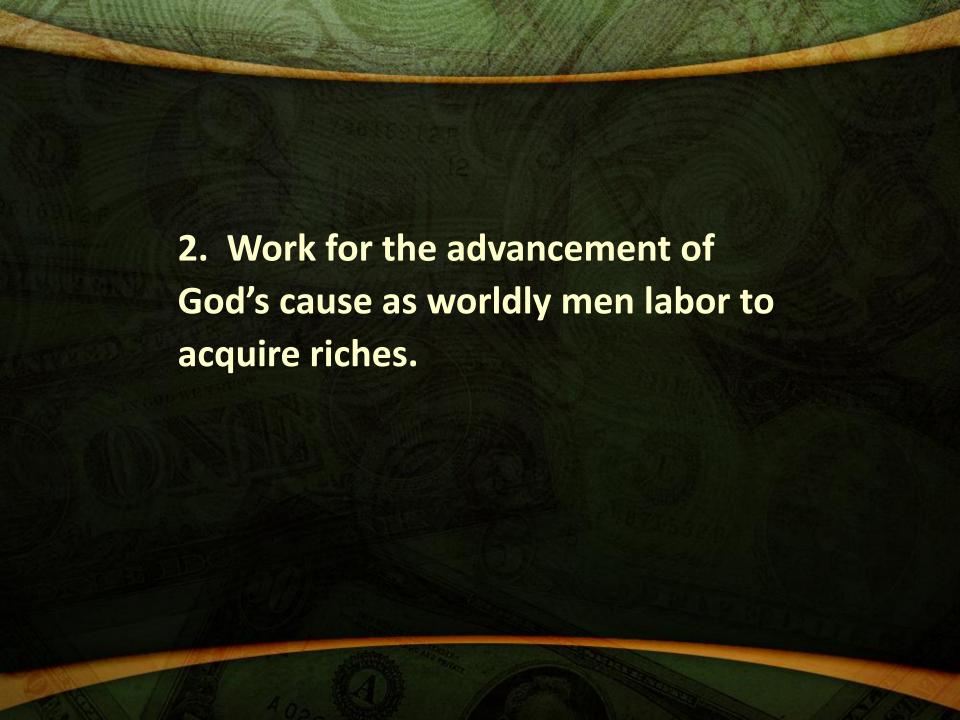
In the last extremity, before this work shall close, thousands will be cheerfully laid upon the altar. Men and women will feel it a blessed privilege to share in the work of preparing souls to stand in the great day of God, and they will give hundreds as readily as dollars are given now.

CS 40.2

Did they [Christ's professed people] but realize how near is the end of all work for the salvation of souls, they would (3 things):

(See CS 40, 41)





3. Exercise tact and skill, and earnest and unselfish labor would be put forth to acquire means, not to hoard, but to poor into the treasury of the Lord.



The time is coming when we cannot sell at any price. The decree will soon go forth prohibiting men to buy or sell of any man save he that hath the mark of the beast.

5T 152

The tithe should be consecrated to God. His requirements come first. We are not doing His will if we consecrate to Him what is left after all our wants have been supplied. Before any part of our income is consumed, we should take out and present to Him that portion which He claims as His. When this is done, the remainder will be sanctified and blessed to our own use.

Pacific Union Recorder (PUR)October 10, 1901 paragraph 6

Name It and Claim It Religion

Jesus has not promised that all who accept Him will become wealthy by the world's standards. However, He has promised many things to those who follow and obey Him: 1. He will supply our needs. (Phil. 4:19)

2. He will be with us wherever we go. (Matt. 28:20)

3. He will give us peace. (Isa. 26:3)



Those who are ready and willing to invest in the cause of God, will be blessed in their efforts to acquire money... It is no sin to acquire and control property as stewards of God, holding it only until He shall require it for the necessities of His work.

~RH September 18, 1888



He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given.

Proverbs 19:17

The only means which God has ordained to advance His cause is to bless men with property.

5T 150

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them...

After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

Matthew 25:14, 19

His lord said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things, Enter into the joy of your lord.

Matthew 25:21

Every extravagance should be cut out of our lives; for the time which we have to work is none too long. All around us we see suffering humanity...What an account men will by and by have to render for their selfish use of God's money! Those who disregard the provision God has made for the poor, will realize the following:

(See SPTA09, p. 68)

1. They have robbed both their fellow men and God.

2. They have embezzled His goods. (See SPTA09, p. 68)

From age to age Jesus has been delivering his goods to men and women. Soon will come the day when he will call each to account for the use made of these goods. It is God who gives men power to get wealth. He waters the earth with the dews of heaven and with the showers of refreshing rain. He gives the sunlight, which warms the earth, awakening to life the things of nature, and causing them to flourish and bear fruit. And he asks for a return of His own. RH, December 23, 1902



God also entrusts men with means, not to be used selfishly. He desires that his gifts be used to help those who need assistance. He gives men power to get wealth.

ST, January 21, 1897 (Deut. 8:17, 18).



As followers of Christ give back to the Lord His own, they are accumulating treasure which will be theirs when they hear the words: Well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

9T 59

It is a sad fact that while great things are being done in the world by individual Christians, the potency of those forces are largely lost because the rank and file are living unorganized lives with no distinct acknowledgment of their stewardship relation to God, the Fatherowner. The faithful steward alone is lacking at this crucial hour.

> Frederick Agar, 1920 The Stewardship of Life

If we use our means to God's glory here, we lay up treasure in heaven; and when earthly possessions are all gone, the faithful steward has Jesus and angels for his friends, to receive him home to everlasting habitations.

1T 198

If anyone is robbing God, he may see by studying the Bible that he should repent and make restitution; for his case has been presented in the word of God. He should fear to continue in blindness of mind, lest for his selfishness he should lose eternal life, which Christ died to obtain for him. ST, August 1, 1892

As the people of God approach the perils of the last days, Satan holds earnest consultation with his angels as to the most successful plan of overthrowing their faith... Says the great deceiver...

TM 472-474

... "Go, make the possessors of lands and money drunk with the cares of this life. Present the world before them in its most attractive light, that they may lay up their treasure here and fix their affections upon earthly things...

TM 472-474

Make them care more for money than for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom and the spread of truths we hate, and we need not fear their influence; for we know that every selfish, covetous person will fall under our power, and will finally be separated from God's people. TM 472-474

He who embezzles his Lord's goods not only loses the talent lent him of God, but eternal life. Of him it is said: "Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness."

3T 387



For what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?
Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Matt. 8:36,37

Money has great value, because it can do great good... But money is of no more value than sand, only as it is put to use

- in providing for the necessities of life,
- in blessing others
- and advancing the cause of Christ

I WAS SHOWN that the parable of the talents has not been fully understood. This important lesson was given to the disciples for the benefit of Christians living in the last days...The parable applies to the temporal means which God has entrusted to His people...God requires those who have possessions here, to put it into the cause to spread the truth.

1T 197

I WAS SHOWN that the recording angel makes a faithful record of every offering dedicated to God and put into the treasury, and also of the final result of the means thus bestowed....

... Even though the means thus consecrated be misapplied, so that it does not accomplish the object which the donor had in view,--the glory of God and the salvation of souls,--those who made the sacrifice in sincerity of soul, with an eye single to the glory of God, will not lose their reward. 2T 518, 519



Hoarded wealth is not merely useless, it is a curse. In this life it is a snare to the soul, drawing the affections away from the heavenly treasure. In the great day of God its witness to unused talents and neglected opportunities will condemn its possessor.

COL 352

The Story of Zacchaeus Luke 19:1-10

What we know about Zacchaeus:

- 1. He was a chief tax collector.
- 2. He was rich.
- 3. He was of short stature.
- 4. He wanted to "see" Jesus.
- 5. He "ran" ahead.
- 6. He climbed a tree.

The Story of Zacchaeus Luke 19:1-10

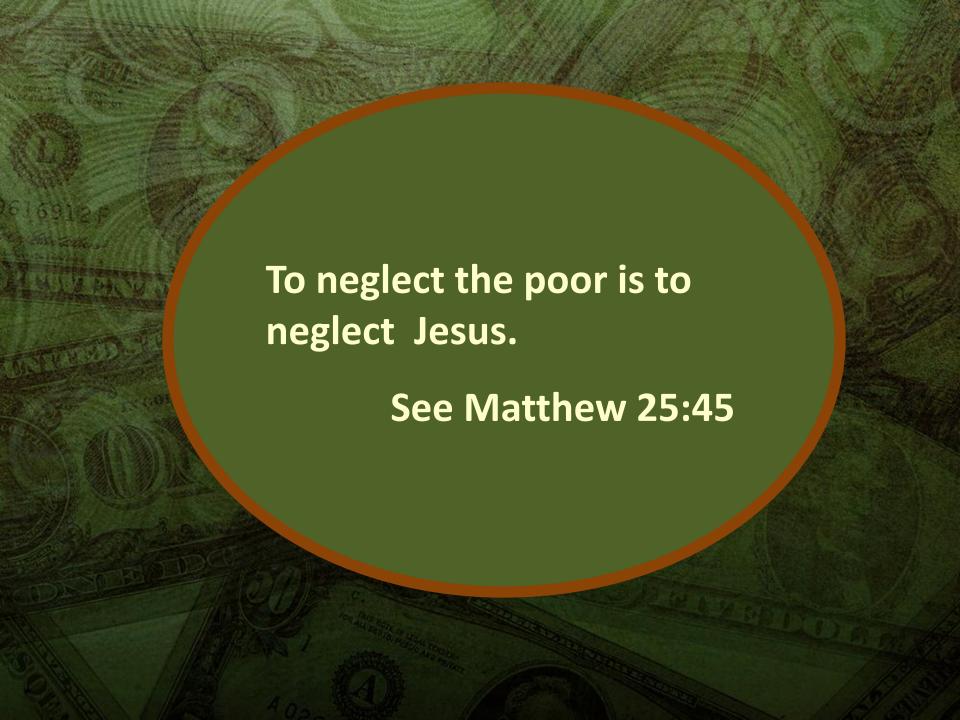
What we know about Jesus:

- 1. He was planning to pass through Jericho.
- 2. He came to Zacchaeus, looked up and saw him.
- 3. He called Zacchaeus by name having never met him.
- 4. He asked him to come down.
- 5. Jesus invited Himself to Zacchaeus' house.

Luke 19:1-10

Results of the encounter with Jesus:

- 1. Zacchaeus hurried down.
- 2. He joyfully received Jesus.
- 3. Others criticized Jesus for eating with a sinner.
- 4. Zacchaeus' attitude toward money changed (one-half to poor; four times restored)
- 5. Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to this house."

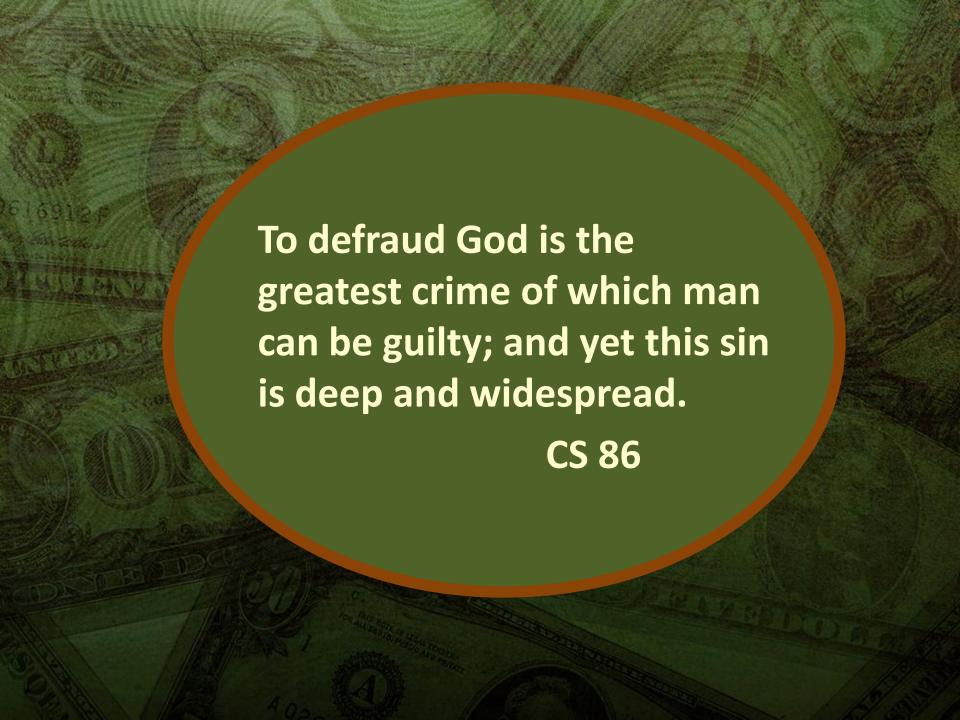


...When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering.

Those on the left hand of Christ, those who had neglected Him in the person of the poor and the suffering, were unconscious of their guilt. Satan had blinded them; they had not perceived what they owed to their brethren. They had been self-absorbed, and cared not for others' needs.

DA 639

Love to man is the earthward manifestation of the love of God. It was to implant this love, to make us children of one family, that the King of glory became one with us. And when His parting words are fulfilled, "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12); when we love the world as He has loved it, then for us His mission is accomplished. We are fitted for heaven; for we have heaven in our hearts.



A great work must be done all through the world, and let no one conclude that, because the end is near, there is no need of special effort to build up the various institutions as the cause shall demand.

When the Lord shall bid us to make no further effort to build meetinghouses and establish schools, sanitariums, and publishing institutions, it will be time for us to fold our hands and let the Lord close up the work; but now is our opportunity to show our zeal for God and our love for humanity.

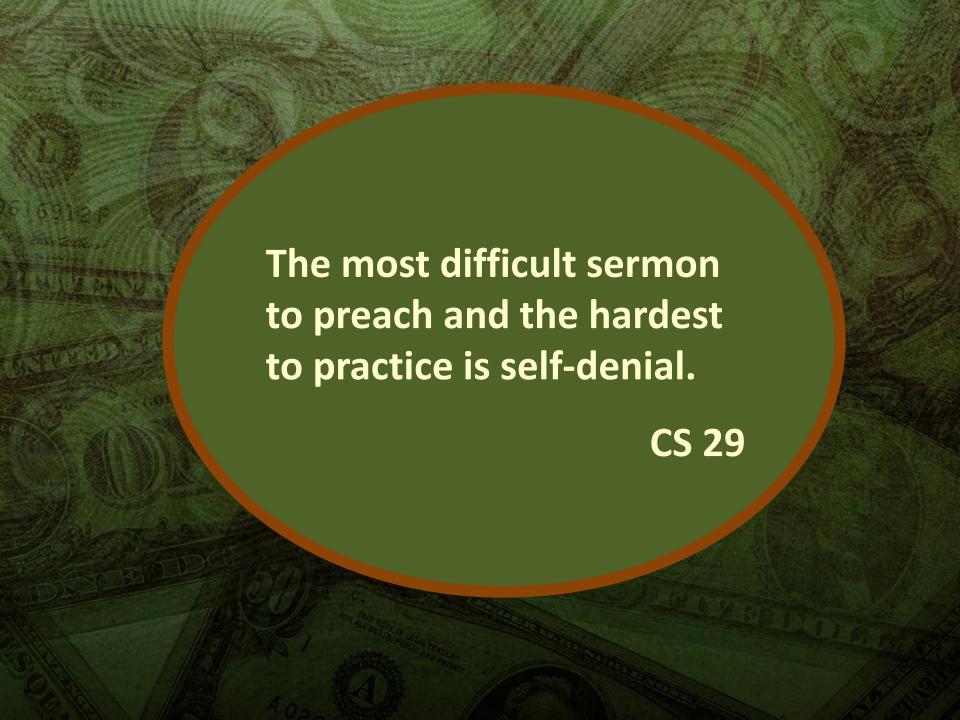
Use your means to create, rather than your influence to diminish, agencies for good... Since the Lord is soon to come, act decidedly and determinedly to increase the facilities, that a great work may be done in a short time.

6T 441

Since the Lord is soon coming, it is time to put out our money to the exchangers, time to put every dollar we can spare into the Lord's treasury, that institutions may be established for the education of workers, who shall be instructed as were those in the schools of the prophets. If the Lord comes and finds you doing this work, He will say: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant:...enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

Sacrifice ALL to God. Lay ALL upon His altar – self, property, and ALL, a living sacrifice. It will take ALL to enter glory. Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where no thief can approach or rust corrupt. Ye must be partakers of Christ's sufferings here if ye would be partakers with Him of His glory hereafter.

EW 66







Concept adapted from Values-Based Estate Planning by Scott C. Fithian

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE PERSONAL NEEDS CARED FOR

Financial independence is the foundation of our estate plan. We cannot give everything away because we must keep something in reserve for our own needs. Your retirement plan as discussed in Chapter 9 gives details about how to evaluate and prepare for financial independence.





Concept adapted from Values-Based Estate Planning by Scott C. Fithian

FAMILY LEGACY IMMEDIATE FAMILY NEEDS

This area has the most emotion associated with it. This is especially true here in North America where people grow up with the notion that when their parents die, they (the children) should receive the parents' assets divided equally among siblings.

Minor Children

Provision should be made for those who are still dependent on parents for at least part of their food, clothing, shelter, and education. Parents must teach their children to become independent adults and good money managers.

Grown Children

Many financial counselors and others say there is evidence on both sides regarding leaving money or assets to grown children.

Example:

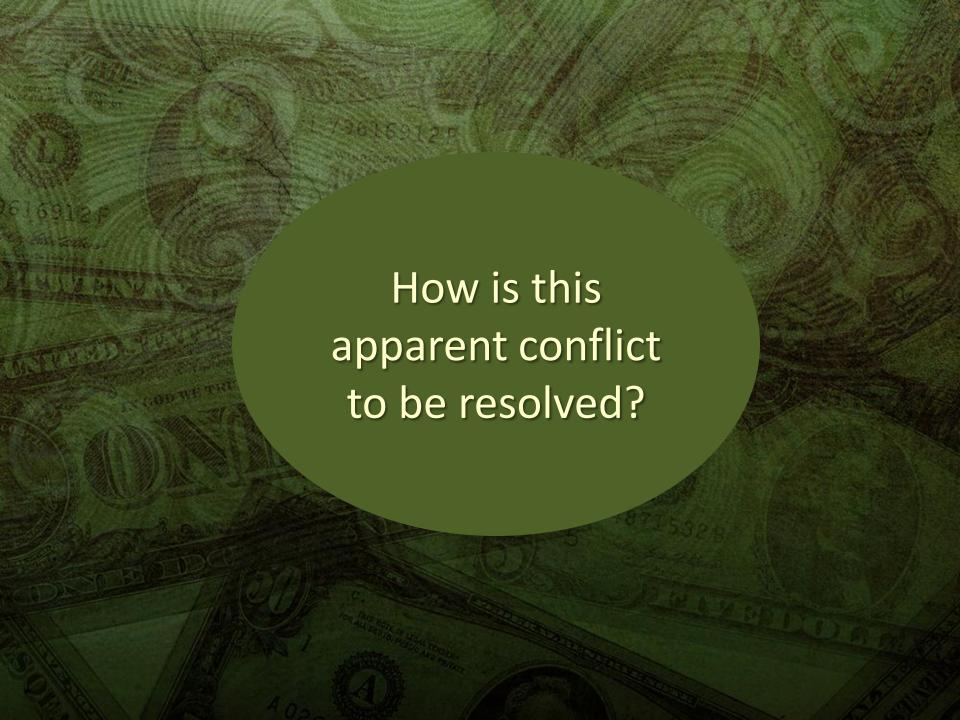
For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage [portion] to a man who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

Ecclesiastes 2:21

Example:

A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children.

Proverbs 13:22



Today in America things are quite different. Inheritances are usually windfalls going to career people who live separately from their parents and who are financially independent.

In Old Testament times, passing ownership of land to descendants was vital. Without it, succeeding generations couldn't farm or raise livestock.

Today it would seem appropriate to pass on businesses to children who are depending on them and who will continue to operate them.

Notice what the Bible says about legacy:

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold. (Prov. 22:1)

Can it be that values are our real basic legacy?

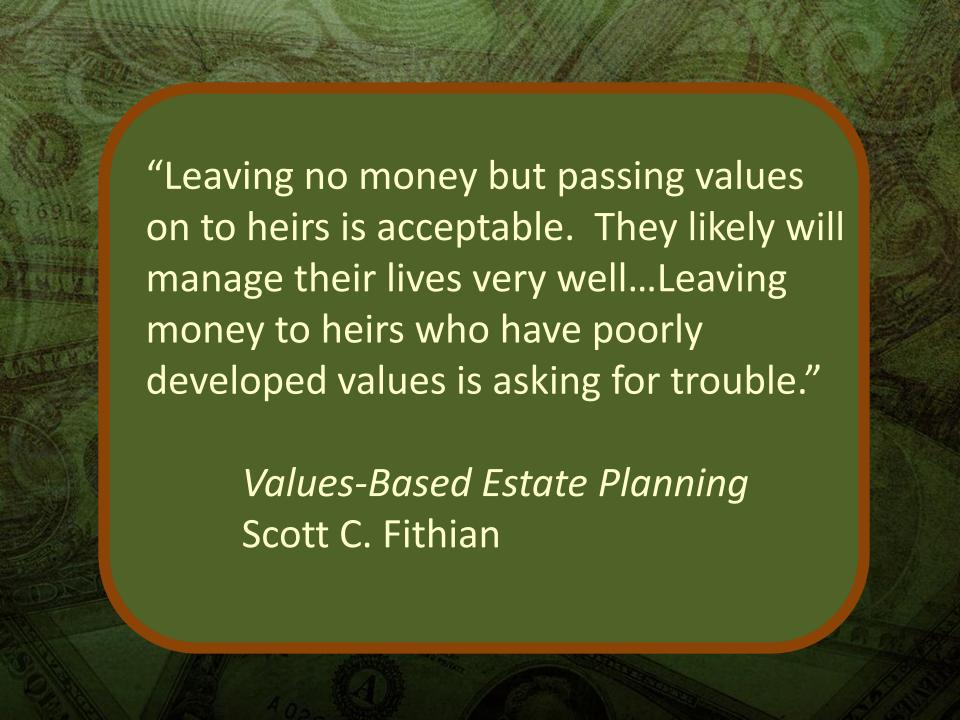
VALUES PASSED FROM PARENTS TO CHILDREN:

Ethical values – honesty, justice, and fairness

Personal values – modesty, loyalty, and faithfulness

Emotional values – compassion, kindness, and generosity

Other values – good citizenship, financial responsibility, frugality, good stewardship, faith in God, spiritual commitment, punctuality, competence, good health, care for others, time with family, love for education, and self-improvement.



The very best legacy which parents can leave their children is a knowledge of useful labor and the example of a life characterized by disinterested benevolence...

~Testimonies for the Church,
Volume 3, p. 399

By such a life they show the true value of money, that it is only to be appreciated for the good that it will accomplish in relieving their own wants and the necessities of others, and in advancing the cause of God. ~Testimonies for the Church Volume 3, p. 399

Suggested reading:

Testimonies for the Church

Volume 3, pp. 116-130

"To Aged and Wealthy Parents"

Volume 4, pp. 476-485

"Wills and Legacies"

"It is a parent's and a grandparent's responsibility to entrust God's resources to children only if they have demonstrated the ability to handle those resources in a manner that would be pleasing to Him who is the owner of all. The fact that because you have a child should not make the child the automatic beneficiary of your estate."

> Splitting Heirs, Ron Blue, page 83

"You are a steward of God's resources on His behalf. You are not a steward of your children's resources. You are not accountable to your children about how your transfer or spend His money. You are accountable to God."

Splitting Heirs
Ron Blue

If parents, while they live, would assist their children to help themselves, it would be better than to leave them a large amount at death.

~Testimonies for the Church

Volume 3, p. 122

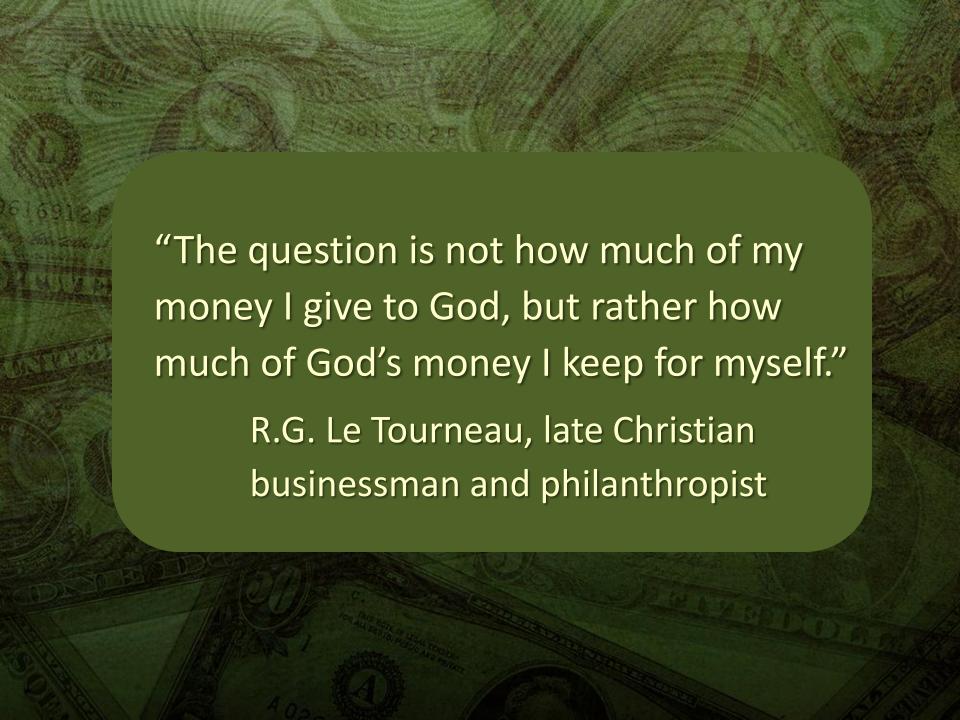
Children who are left to rely principally upon their own exertions, make better men and women, and are better fitted for practical life, than those children who have depended upon their father's estate.

> ~Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3, p. 122





Concept adapted from Values-Based Estate Planning by Scott C. Fithian



People complain that the church talks too much about money because they don't understand God's ownership and our stewardship. How we manage God's money is so important that He inspired Bible writers to talk about this topic more than any other.

THE IRONY OF ESTATE PLANNING

Most people spend two-thirds of their lives accumulating their assets, and when they finally reach retirement age with a comfortable nest egg, financial advisors tell them they should start giving it all away!

Large estates can have estate and gift tax consequences. As Scott Fithian notes,

"It is simple to eliminate the estate tax by leaving 100 percent of the estate to charity at death. Only minimal lifetime planning is required, and maximum flexibility is retained."

Values-Based Estate Planning, p. 26

BASIC SPIRITUAL LEGACY DECISIONS

Once the portion of the estate is identified that can be returned to God, then a decision must be made as to when and how this will be done. Will it be now – *inter vivos* (while living) or will it be done with testamentary documents after death?

Eight Advantages of Giving while Still Alive

- 1. Donor can see results of gift
- 2. Ministry or person benefits now when need is greatest
- 3. Prevents fighting among family/friends after donor's death

Eight Advantages of Giving while Still Alive

- 4. Sets good example of family values, of generosity and love for others.
- 5. Minimizes estate tax consequence.
- 6. Guarantees that gift will go to desired entity.

Eight Advantages of Giving while Still Alive

7. Demonstrates the donor's Christlike motivation.

8. Stores up treasure in heaven.

"My own belief is that you get no eternal reward for assets given at death. You don't have any choice. You are leaving it all anyway! How can you receive a reward for something you kept your entire life and were forced to give only at death? God will reward you later for your sacrifices now, for your faith shown now, for your unselfishness now in this life." Ron Blue

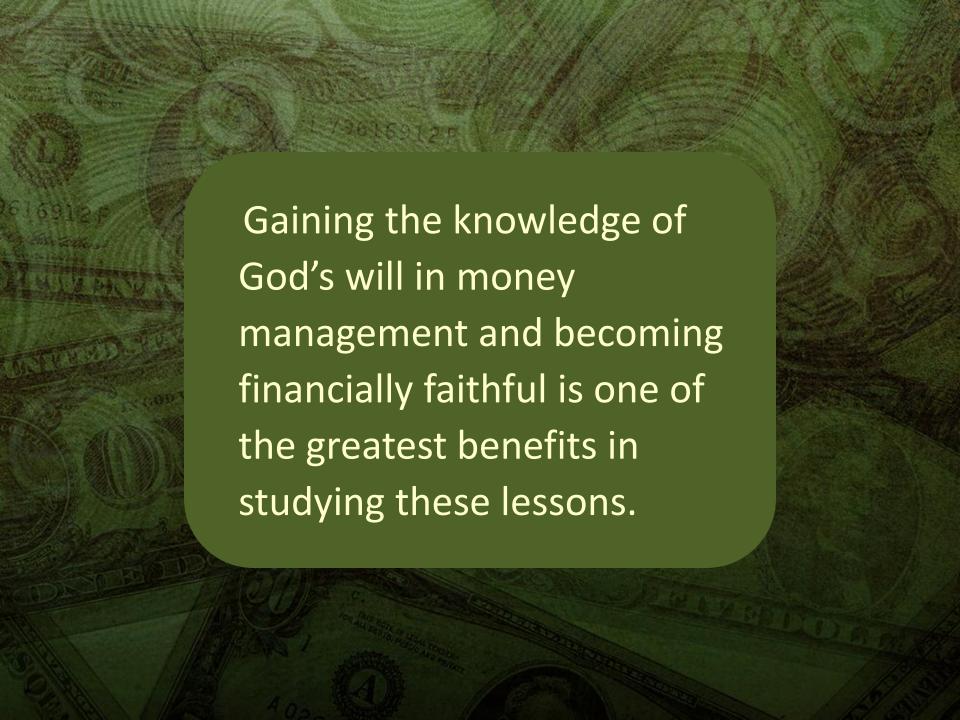
Those who neglect known duty by not answering to God's claims upon them in this life, and who soothe their consciences by calculating on making their bequests at death, will receive no words of commendation from the Master, nor will they receive a reward.

~Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4, p. 480

They practiced no self-denial, but selfishly retained their means as long as they could, yielding it up only when death claimed them. That which many propose to defer until they are about to die, if they were Christians indeed they would do while they have a strong hold on life.

~Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4, p. 480

CHRISTIAN FINANCIAL **PERSPECTIVES**



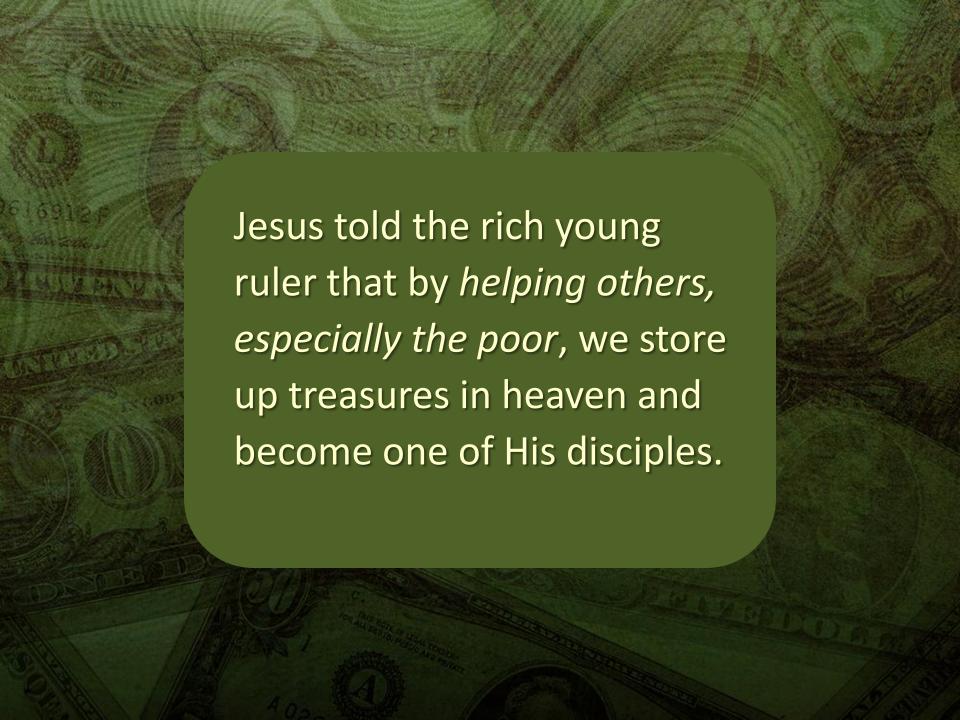
People complain that the church talks too much about money because they don't understand God's ownership and our stewardship. How we manage God's money is so important that He inspired Bible writers to talk about this topic more than any other.

OPTIONS FOR SPIRITUAL LEGACIES

There are hundreds of causes to support with charitable – spiritual legacy – funds. Once tithe has been taken care of, these funds would be classified as offerings and their use is discretionary to the giver.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

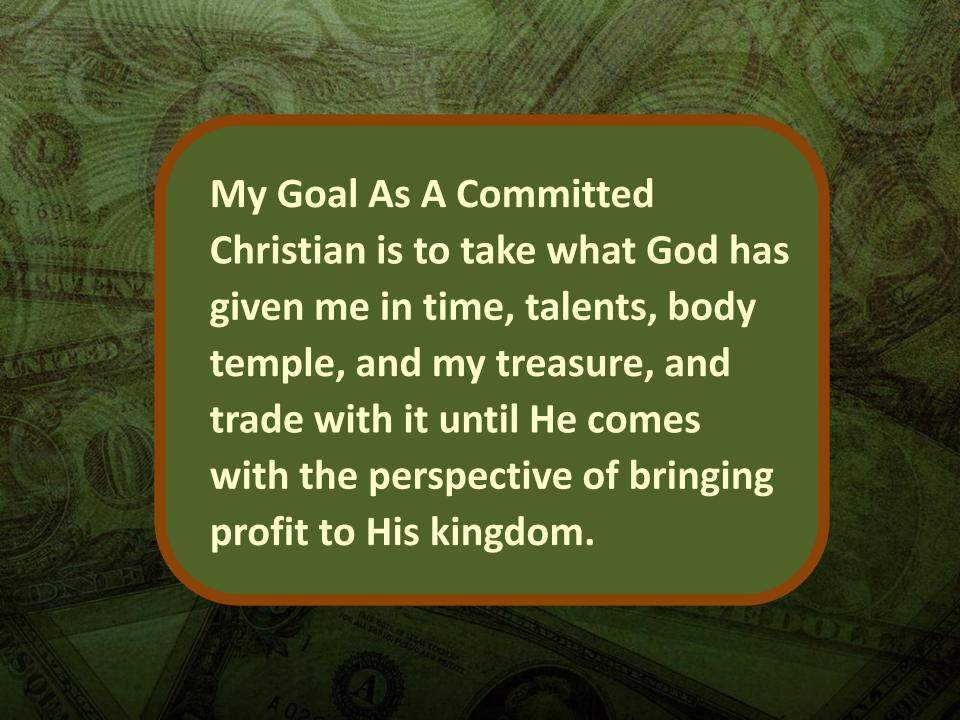
In Acts 1:8, we find guidance regarding the scope of our mission interests. We can fill in the names of cities in our respective areas and discover that they could easily match our community, our local church, our conference, and the world field.



OPTIONS FOR SPIRITUAL LEGACY

Projects:

- Gospel ministry
- Christian education
- Help build new churches
- Help pay off mortgage of your local church
- Help support school, clinic, orphanage abroad
- Sponsor young person on a mission trip





"In the simplest terms, the federal government is spending \$3 for every \$2 it collects and is borrowing the rest. What family budget [what business] can possibly survive on that formula? The federal government can't either."

~Jim Toedtman, Editor
AARP Bulletin, June 2010



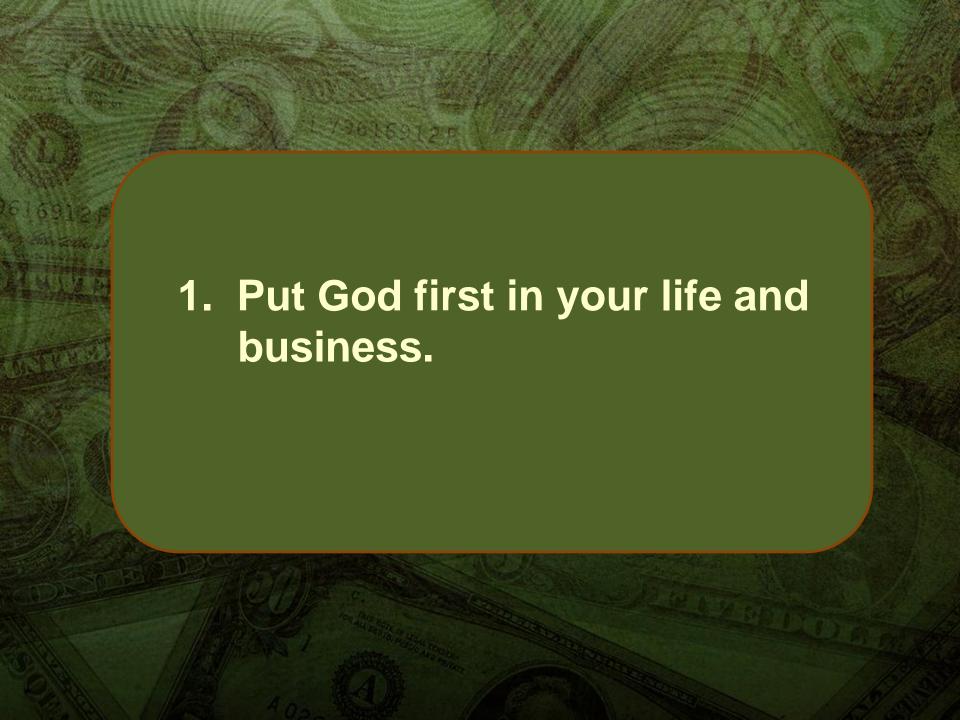
"By any measure, the nation is on an unsustainable course that is more perilous the longer it goes unaddressed."

~Jim Toedtman, Editor
AARP Bulletin, June 2010

"Washington's habit of spending today the money it hopes to collect tomorrow is getting worse and worse. It even has elements of a Ponzi scheme."

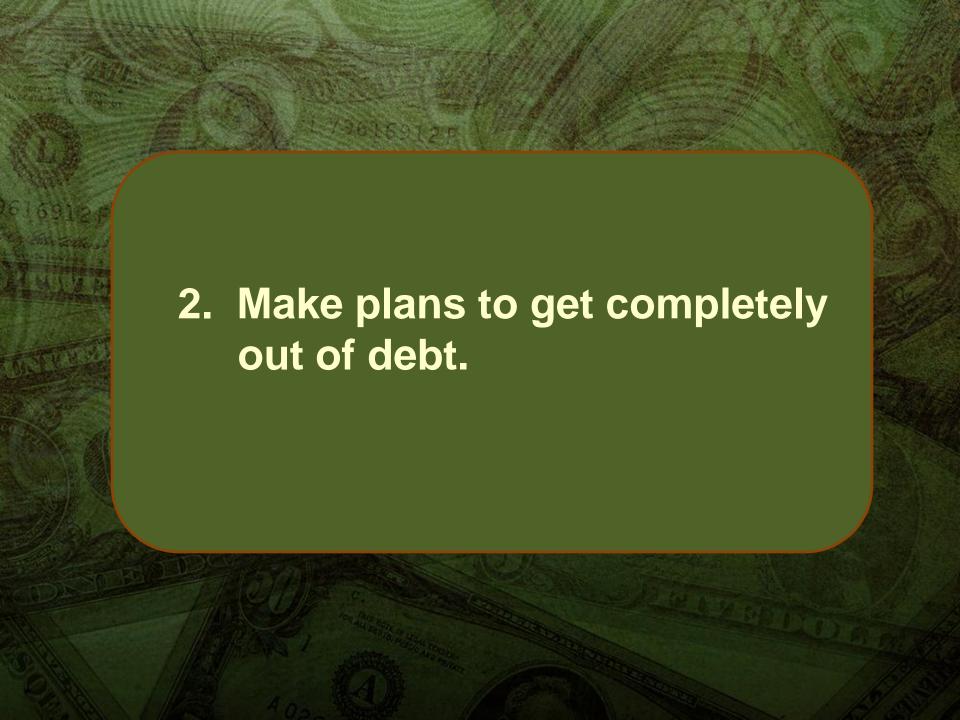
Washington Post, April 25, 2010 (Sec. B-1)

FINANCIAL PROTECTION CHECKLIST



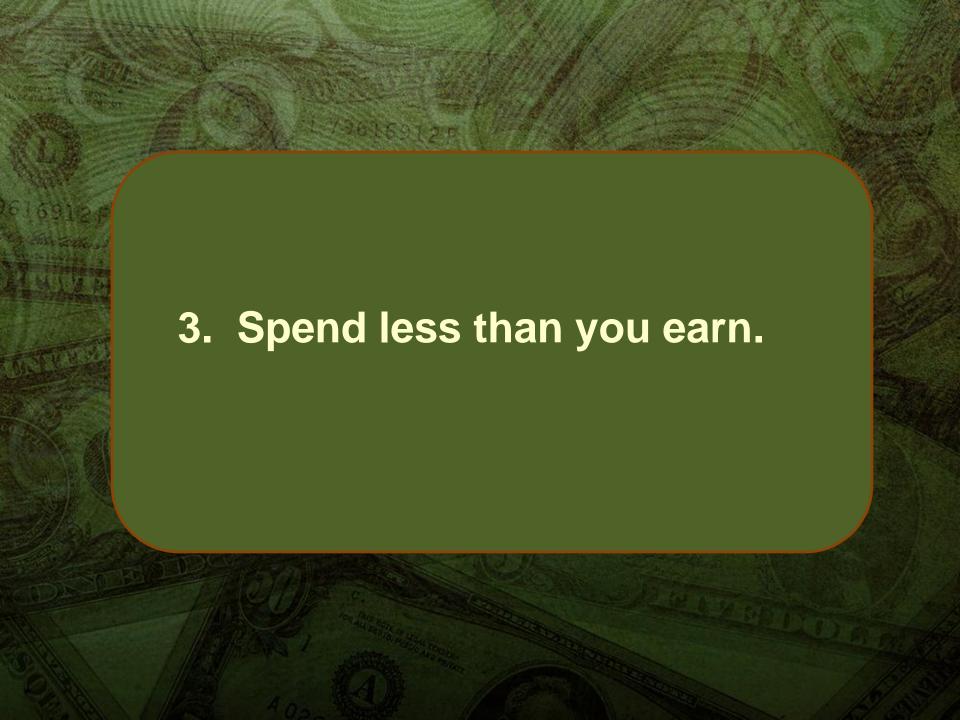
The wise man's counsel is still valid. "Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9, 10).

And Jesus Himself said, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things [food, clothing, shelter] shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). Current economic conditions bring to mind the words of an old song, "If we ever needed the Lord before, we sure do need Him now." Now is the time to trust that God will sustain us and provide for our needs.



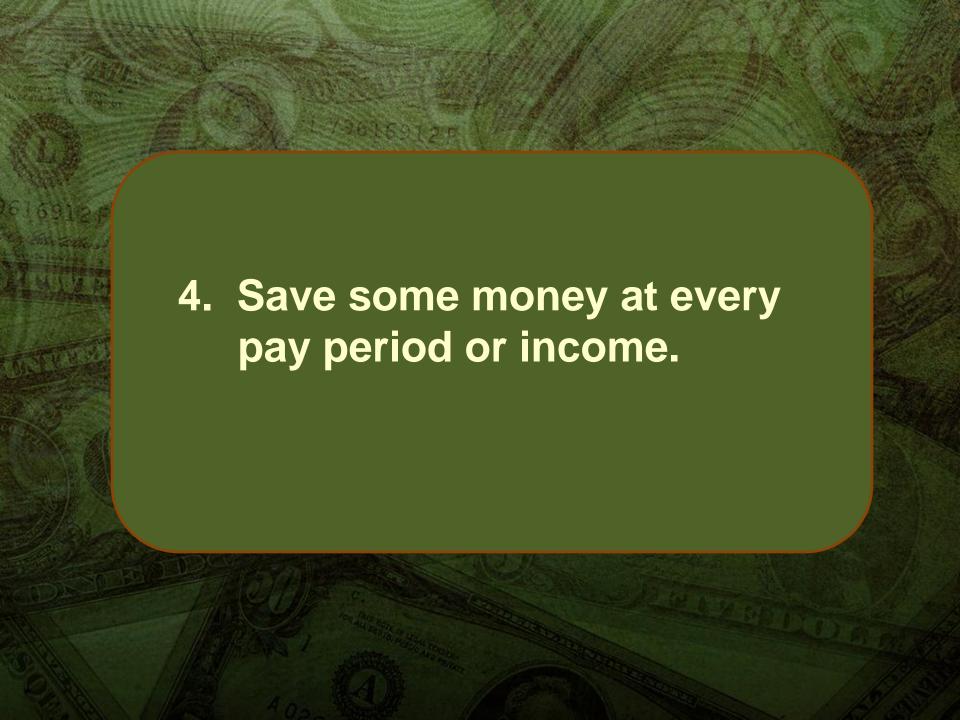
Start by paying off all credit card debt and all variable rate debts. Have a yard sale and sell of all your possessions that you don't actually need. (See 1T 197) Sell collectibles, art, and other valuables that don't have sentimental value...

They will bring more now than they will later. If you have a variable rate mortgage convert it to a fixed interest rate. Finally, set a plan in motion to prepay your home mortgage and any business debts.



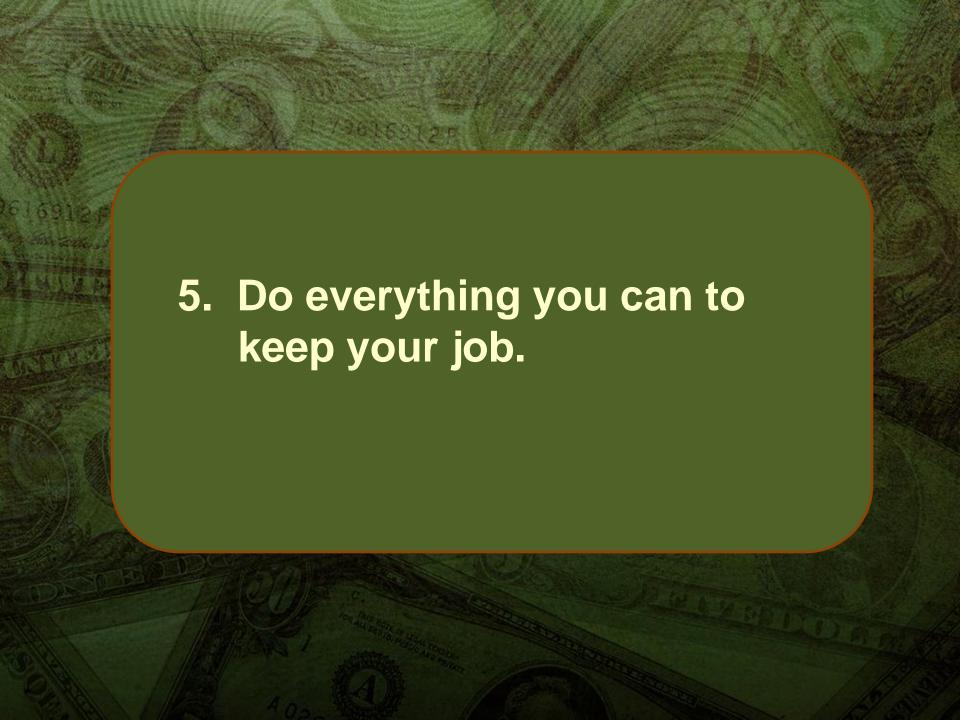
We decry the governments debt of over \$13 trillion and the bailout of banks at \$700 billion, but American consumers are equally guilty of overspending...

The outstanding credit card balances – te amount that is unpaid and carried over from month to month – is now over \$915 billion in the United States. The principle here is to be content with what we have and learn to live within our income. (See 1 Timothy 6:6-10) Presently about 43% of American families spend more than they earn each year. Don't be one of them!



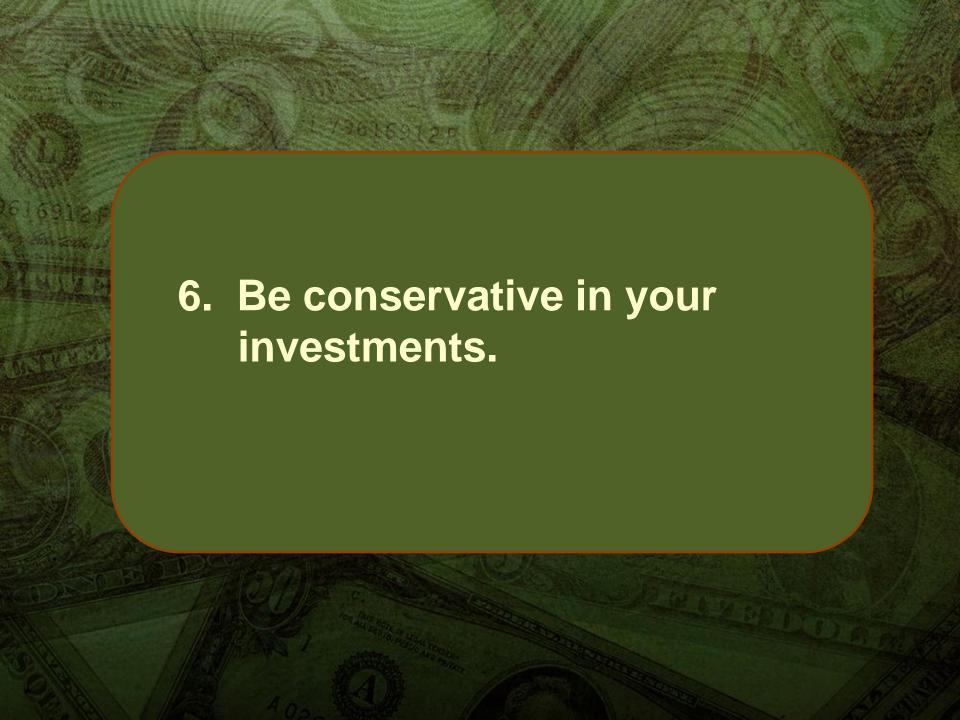
Those who have followed this principle and have at least 6-months worth of living expenses in cash savings in the bank are in much better shape than those who are in debt. A savings account provides protection when there is a job loss, car breakdown, health concern, or other event that could hurt your financial security...

A nice little nest egg can help you weather an economic storm and makes good sense. "You might today have had a capital of means to use in case of emergency and to aid the cause of God, if you had economized as you should. Every week a portion of your wages should be reserved and in no case touched unless suffering actual want, or to render back to the Giver in offerings to God" (Adventist Home, p. 396).

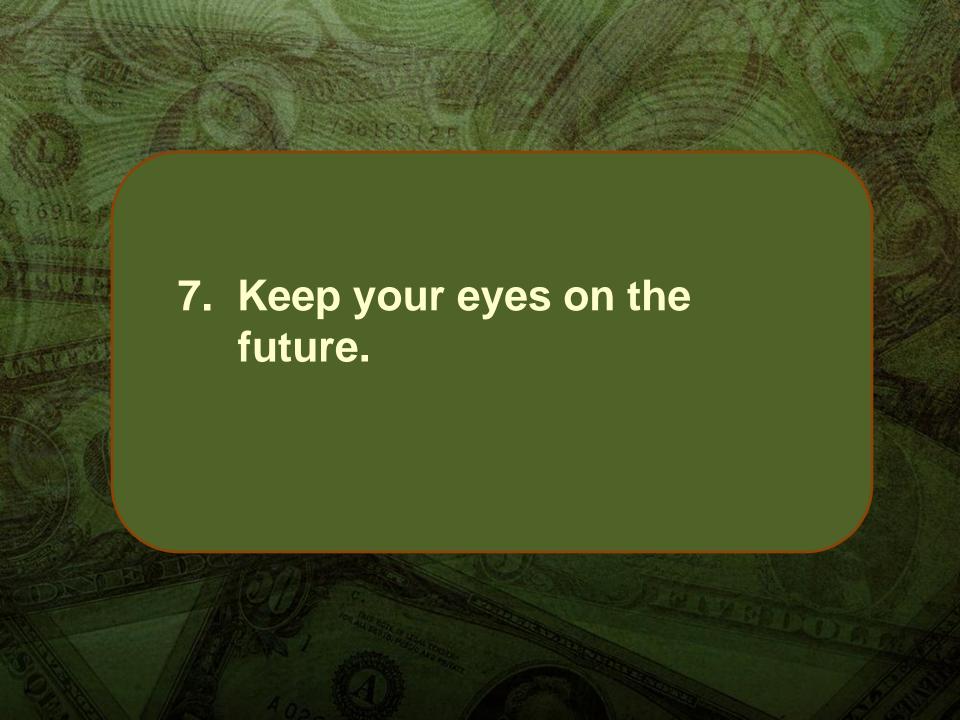


The Bible says, "Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men" (Proverbs 22:29).

There is much said about work and integrity in the Bible. Ask God for wisdom to do your work efficiently so that you will be able to continue to work in these hard times. If you should lose your job, be willing to work at whatever job is available that would not violate your conscience.



Remember that there is no more secure investment than investing in your own debt! Beyond paying off your debts, during times of uncertainty, the better part of wisdom suggests that investments be on the conservative side. This means FDIC insured accounts. If you have a surplus of means it is a good time to "invest" in the cause of God. The needs of God's work continue even in hard times.



Remember that we must all give an account of the management of God's resources. (Matthew 25:19). Our real home is in heaven. The events of this earth will grow strangely dim in the light of God's glory and grace...

Someday soon everything on earth will be burned up. The Bible says, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). This will not be a great disappointment to the true Christian. His treasures will be laid up securely in heaven.

