

*Men of God:
A Roadmap for Spiritual Growth*

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Session 8:
Money and Stewardship

March 28, 2023

Our Purpose

“to equip Christian men in the greater Jackson area with sound biblical instruction so that they can fulfill their callings in the church, at home, at work, and in the community to the glory of God.”

Outline

Week 1: Men of God: Hindrances and Helps to Growth Part 1

Week 2: Men of God: Hindrances and Helps to Growth Part 2

Week 3: Men of God: Time and Priorities

Week 4: Men of God: Friendship and Community

Week 5: Men of God: Thoughts and Feelings

Week 6: Men of God: Singleness and Sex

Week 7: Men of God: Work and Play

Week 8: Men of God: Money and Stewardship

Resource

The Act of Grace: The Power of Generosity to Change your Life, the Church, and the World, by James C Petty, published by P&R.

Money is Dangerous: Handle with Care

[G]odliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Timothy 6:6-10)

Money is Dangerous: Handle with Care

“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Luke 12:15)

Money is Dangerous: Handle with Care

“To ‘consist’ of your possessions is to be defined by what you own and consume. The term describes a personal identity based on money. It refers to people who, if they lose their wealth, do not have a ‘self’ left, for their personal worth is based on their financial worth.”

(Timothy Keller, *Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters*, [Penguin Books, 2009]

Money is Dangerous: Handle with Care

Those “who desire to be rich, fall ...”

1. “*into temptation, into a snare*”:

“Thus they do to themselves what they pray God will never do to them: they lead themselves into temptation.”

(John Stott, *The Message of 1 Timothy, BST*, [Downers Grove, IL: IVP] 1996, 52)

Money is Dangerous: Handle with Care

Those “who desire to be rich, fall ...”

2. “*into many senseless and harmful desires*”

“Money is a drug, and covetousness a drug addiction. The more you have, the more you want. Yet these further desires are *foolish* (they cannot be rationally defended) and *harmful* (they captivate and do not liberate the human spirit. As Schopenhauer said, ‘gold is like sea water- the more one drinks of it, the thirstier one becomes.’”

(John Stott, *The Message of 1 Timothy, BST*, [Downers Grove, IL: IVP] 1996, 52)

Money is Dangerous: Handle with Care

Those “who desire to be rich, fall ...”

3. “*that plunge people into ruin and destruction.*”

“The metaphor pictures them sinking and drowning... The irony is that those who set their hearts on gain end in total loss, the loss of their integrity and indeed of themselves.

For as Jesus asked, ‘What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?’”

(John Stott, *The Message of 1 Timothy, BST*, [Downers Grove, IL: IVP] 1996, 52)

Money is Dangerous: Handle with Care

“No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” (Luke 16:13-15)

Money is Dangerous: Handle with Care

“He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. ¹¹ When goods increase, they increase who eat them...” (Ecclesiastes 5:10-11)

Money has Potential: Use it for Good

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ² “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” (Matthew 6:1-4)

Money has Potential: Use it for Good

“do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret.” (Matthew 6:3)

Money has Potential: Use it for Good

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

Money has Potential: Use it for Good

Randy Alcorn writes:

“What we do with our money doesn’t simply indicate where our heart *is*. According to Jesus, it determines where our heart *goes*. If our heart is where our treasure is ([Matthew 6:19-21](#)), then when we move our treasure somewhere else, our heart follows. This is a remarkable truth. If I want my heart somewhere, I need to put my money there.”

(<https://www.epm.org/blog/2022/Aug/29/eternity-minded-stewardship>)

Money is a Tool: Steward it Wisely

1. *Live simply*

In 1 Timothy 6:7-8 Paul says, “godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.”

“Food and clothing, that’s all Paul needed. Christians can and should be content with the simple necessities of life. In a culture of accumulation that is built on having more and more, always consuming , always looking for the next deal, we as believers need to have a countercultural perspective. Quite simply, we don’t need more.” (David Platt, *Exalting Jesus in 1&2 Timothy and Titus*, [Nashville, TN: B&H, 2013] 116)

Money is a Tool: Steward it Wisely

2. *Give sacrificially*

Look down at verses 18 and 19: “do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

Do good, be rich in good works, be generous and ready to share. Listen to Platt,

“let’s limit our budgets and grow in contentment in order to free up as much of our resources as possible for the purpose of making disciples in all nations.”

(David Platt, *Exalting Jesus in 1&2 Timothy and Titus*, [Nashville, TN: B&H, 2013] 117)

Money is a Tool: Steward it Wisely

3. Thrive Eternally

Randy Alcorn says that “John Wesley offered four questions to help decide how to spend money.

Notice how the last three flow directly out of the first one:

- In spending this money, am I acting as if I owned it, or am I acting as the Lord’s trustee?
- What Scripture requires me to spend this money in this way?
- Can I offer up this purchase as a sacrifice to the Lord?
- Will God reward me for this expenditure at the resurrection of the just?

<https://www.epm.org/blog/2022/Aug/29/eternity-minded-stewardship>

Link to Men of God Series

<https://fpcjackson.org/resource-library/series-index/men-of-god/>