

November 18, 2012
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Selected Scriptures

“Wisdom with Wealth – Part Four”

I. Attitude toward Wealth

II. Acquisition of Wealth

III. Allocation (Use) of Wealth

• STEWARDSHIP & CONTENTMENT!!!

A. How NOT to Allocate God’s Money

B. How TO Allocate God’s Money

1. Honor God (Prov. 3:9-10)

a. Tithe?

1) Pre-Law Laws? (Gen. 14:17-24; 28:19-22; cf. Gen. 26:4-5; Heb. 11:4)

2) Law (Lev. 27:30-32; Num. 18:25-26; 2 Chron. 30-31; Neh. 10:34-37; Mal. 3:7-12; Mt. 23:23; Lk. 11:42; 18:9-14)

3) Post-Law? (1 Cor. 9:7-14; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; Heb. 7)

b. Offerings (Ex. 36:1-7; 1 Cor. 16:1ff; 2 Cor. 8-9) – Note CONTEXT

c. Alms for the poor (Prov. 14:20-21, 31; 17:5; 19:6-7, 17; 21:13; 22:9, 16, 22; 25:21-22; 28:27; 29:7, 13-14; 31:20; 28:8; Mt. 6:2; Acts 10:2; 24:17)

2. Taxes (Rom. 13)

3. Household (Prov. 31:21-22; 1 Tim. 5:3-4, 8)

4. Debts (Jer. 15:10; Prov. 3:27-28; Dt. 24:15 cf. Lev. 19:13; James 5:4)

5. Savings – for future needs (Prov. 6:6-8; 21:20)

6. Investments (Prov. 31:16)

7. Insurance

8. Inheritance (Prov. 13:22; 17:2; 19:14; 20:21; 29:3)

Discussion Questions:

1. How have your attitudes changed over the past few weeks in our study of God's Word pertaining to wealth? What has changed in your understanding of being a steward (of all things, not just money)? What has changed in the area of contentment?
2. In 2011 only 4% of Americans tithed to charities (the lowest % in history). Why do you think the % of Americans who tithe is decreasing? What do you think would happen in most churches if every member tithed? What would happen to the individuals and to the church as a whole? What would happen to world-wide ministry?
3. What is the difference between "tithes" and "offerings" and "alms"? What can happen to our interpretation of biblical passages if we misunderstand the differences (i.e., Mt. 6:3-4; 1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8-9)?
4. What is our financial responsibility toward elderly parents (especially widows / widowers – see 1 Timothy 5)? What are you doing now to prepare to meet those needs?
5. Why is savings important? Why did Granny always want us to "save for a rainy day?" Do you have an "emergency fund?" What is your current plan to develop your savings? How are savings different from investments? What is your current plan for investments?
6. Is insurance important? Is it different from simply "trusting God"? What kinds of insurances do you have? If you are getting older (or have parents who are older) what kinds of insurances would be beneficial to protect your (or their) lifetime investments?
7. What is the value of an inheritance? Should it be left for foolish children? What are you doing to make sure your children are not foolish with wealth? Should part of an inheritance be left for the local church and other ministries?
8. Do you have a will? Do you have a living trust? Why would these be important? What might happen if you die and don't have a will or living trust? Financially, relationally, etc. Is that the legacy you want to leave for your family / church?

Application: If you have not taken it yet, please plan to take **Financial Peace University** the next time it is offered. We ARE stewards. The question is, "Are we GOOD stewards of all that the Lord has entrusted to us?"