

Stewardship, Christian Foundations

“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 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. **(1 Timothy 6:17–19)**”

Key Theological Points

1. About Our Creator

- a. **He owns all.** “The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” Psalm 24:1 (also Job 41:11 & Haggai 2:8)
- b. **He gives Generously.** “What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” 1 Corinthians 4:7 (also Gen 1:28-30, 1 Chronicles 29:16)
- c. **He works through prosperity and poverty.** God used wealth & prosperity to accomplish his purpose (Abraham, Isaac & Jacob; David; Solomon). God used famine & suffering to accomplish his purposes (Job, Joseph & Jesus)
- d. **He cares how we live regarding Money & Possessions** (Ex 20, Lev 25:35-37, Deut 23:19)
- e. **He provides.** “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? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the [unsaved world] seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:30–33)
- f. **He blesses you, so you can be like him and bless others** (Gen 12:2)
- g. **He sees the hand that gives and the heart behind the giving** (Mark 12:41-44)

2. About Our Reality

- a. **We are called to be stewards or investors of what ultimately God owns and has given us.** (Ecclesiastes 5:15 & 1 Timothy 6:7)
- b. **There is a choice to be an investor or a slave.** Think of the difference between the “Rich Young Ruler” in Luke 18 and Zacchaeus Luke 19; one was a repentant investor and the other was a slave to money. Think of the warning of Jesus in Matthew 6:24 “No one 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.”
- c. **Live for eternity not just the temporal.** (Matthew 6:19-21,24)
- d. **The love of money & possessions can lead you away from the faith.** (1 Tim 6:10)

Fighting Sin

1. Materialism
2. Greed
3. Covetousness

What other sins do you see, related to the Biblical topic of stewardship?

What might it look like to wisely battles these sins?

Practical Considerations (*Christians must be Wise Stewards*)

1. Work honestly & diligently to gain wealth (Colossians 3:23-25, Eph 6:7-8, Gen 2:15, Gen 1:31, Pro 14:23, Pro 6:6-11, Ecc 9:10, 2 Thess 3:10, Matt 5:16)
2. Plan Wisely
3. Give cheerfully and generously (2 Corinthians 9:7 & 2 Corinthians 8:2)
4. Steward your heart
5. Live full of grace

What are ways that you need to be a wise steward with what God has given you?

What have these verses taught you?

Resources:

- Craig Blomberg, *Neither Poverty Nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions*
- Randy Alcorn, ***Money, Possessions, and Eternity*** or ***The Treasure Principle***
- Tim Keller, ***Counterfeit Gods*** or ***Ministries of Mercy***
- John MacArthur, *Whose Money Is It, Anyway? A Biblical Guide to Using God's Wealth*
- Ben Witherington, *Jesus and Money: A Guide for Times of Financial Crisis*
- Ron Sider, *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*
- Wesley Wilmer, *A Revolution in Generosity*
- Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts: Alleviating Poverty Without Hurting the Poor... and Ourselves*