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Class Number

505D

Class Title

THE PREACHER AND FINANCES

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Level

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Baptist International University School of the Scriptures

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CLASS 505D THE PREACHER AND FINANCES

This syllabus is an example of the thesis fulfilling the requirement for Class 505. The syllabus follows the typical class lesson outlines as normally used in *Baptist International University*. The thought is that any approved thesis should be used to teach others. We encourage the lesson format, however, following a class outline format is not required for this objective. The student may write in typical thesis book format. We do expect all work to follow the standard writing rules for papers as defined in Kate L. Turabian's *Manual for Writers*. (Turabian.org).

This syllabus was prepared as – and is intended to be used as – a comprehensive teaching program in a church Sunday School program or seminary class. We believe that though teaching on finances is very necessary, it is a lacking subject for Bible-believing Baptist churches. The content has been arranged to be equal to one 1 credit hour according to university standards. The creation of the syllabus as a thesis is worth 6 units.

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CLASS 505D THE PREACHER AND FINANCES

The Preacher and Finances
An Example of the Master's Thesis

N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.

In Fulfillment of the Thesis Requirement for
Class 505: Thesis on Approved Subject Matter
for Baptist International University School of the Scriptures

July 10, 2022

CLASS 505D THE PREACHER AND FINANCES

**CLASS 505D EXAMPLE OF MASTER THESIS ON
APPROVED SUBJECT MATTER –
THE PREACHER AND FINANCES**

N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.; Pastor, Historic Baptist Church

A Syllabus Approved for Baptist International University School of the Scriptures – 6 Units.

July 10, 2022

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Scripture References

Luke 6

38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Phil.4

19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 9

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

Proverbs 22

7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

3 John 1

2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Deuteronomy 28

13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

Proverbs 19

17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Proverbs 6

1 My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,

2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

3 Do this now, my son, deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.

4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.

5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

Proverbs 31

16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of

her hands she planteth a vineyard.

Proverbs 23

21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

Matthew 23

23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Luke 11

42 But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Leviticus 27

30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD.

1 Timothy 5

8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

1 Thessalonians 4

11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with

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your own hands, as we commanded you;

12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

Romans 12

11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

Romans 12

17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

Romans 13

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

2 Corinthians 8

21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Philippians 4

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely,

whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

1 Timothy 2

2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Hebrews 13

18 Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

1 Peter 2

12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Matthew 6

24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Luke 16

9 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the

mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Luke 19

23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

Psalms 35:27

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

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Preface

Psalm 35:27 says: “Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.”

The Preacher and Finances

What qualifies a man to write on the subject of finances and the preacher? Is the word of God sufficient? Yes, of course the word of God is sufficient, but there is much practical experience and knowledge that also comes into play.

I have no doubt there are men that can better write on this subject – and I encourage them to do it. We all can benefit from the understanding and experience of others.

For the sake of credentials and experience, I submit the following, by God’s grace and for Jesus’ glory, for without the help of God none of this is possible:

- Born in an average working family with no silver spoon.
- Educated in public schools for the most part, but attended private schools for three years
- Entered the Marine Corps a week after my 17th birthday, trained in helicopter mechanics
- On my own since I was 15 years old
- Had little financial help from people in general, having to work for what I needed
- Saved at 25 years old
- Worked from the military to a Principal Engineer position
- Struggled financially for many years
- Started a church with little money, but found the Lord is faithful
- Pastor of a church for more than 30 years
- Made multiple mission trips abroad
- University and seminary-educated, with an honorary doctorate and two earned two doctorates, working on the fourth.
- Been a working preacher in the secular world also for 25-plus years
- Started over ten businesses, some being profitable, some not
- Licensed investment agent
- Licensed insurance agent
- License mortgage agent
- Financial adviser
- Pass multiple background checks and been fingerprinted for licenses more times than I can count
- Current personal assets over \$1.4 million
- Currently the owner of two income-producing properties
- Church property over \$1 million, debt-free
- Good financials for church and missions
- All nine children prospering financially

I will be the first to say there were times when we had no money. By God’s grace we never missed a tithe or offerings, even if our family had to do without (Proverbs 3:9-10). I believe God has honored this. I learned great lessons when struggling financially – some of these lessons are listed below:

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- God is always faithful
- One can always tithe and give offerings
- It is no fun to be broke
- It is no fun to be in debt
- It is much more blessed to give than to receive
- We learn to appreciate what we have
- We learn to make do with what we have
- We learn to be thankful for what we have
- We look for opportunities
- We learn not to waste

One of the best ways to increase one's financial status is to give to missions. Of course, tithes and offerings come first, but participating in faith promise missions is a guaranteed income increase. God blesses missions and promises reward for doing so. It is through giving that we increase.

A Pastors Ensample

Furthermore, as a pastor and a church leader, one must be a pattern of giving. One must be a pattern of diligence. One must be a pattern of financial integrity.

The church's finances belong to God. They must be handled rightly. There must be a balance of giving and saving. As stewards of the Lord's church, he expects us to be honest and responsible. Finances are a struggle when starting a church. There is not a lot of giving. This preacher had no supporting churches in the financial sense. He had a few faithful people and a supporting family.

By God's grace we organized in May 1991, and we were publishing scripture in-house by August. With no money to speak of God supplied three printing presses with the supporting equipment (camera, plate maker, etc.). We bought paper and published the scriptures and gave them away.

We also started the church with the Baptist International University. Although just a few students, God has blessed. Thirty years later we still teach and publish. We have started at least eight churches. We have ordained and sent out many men.

This was all done because God blessed. This preacher is nothing, but God is everything. Most of the works through our church were accomplished with little funds, no debt, and a great God.

We say this to make note of the fact that a preacher is responsible for the financial state of the church. he must give an account for whether the amount is small or large. And what issues he has in his personal life will affect the church's life. He must have his own house in order before he can get the church in order (1 Corinthians 9:27).

Frankly, if a person were to search out my financial statements, tax returns, bank accounts, spending, etc.; I would not be ashamed. I have nothing to hide. I believe it would be a testimony to God's goodness.

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Preachers Need to Learn

I do not want to sound critical – God forgive me if I do – but some men are not good at finances. I can admit I was one. They have a hard time making ends meet. They tend to lack too often. When this happens, the man of God must learn from his mistakes and do what he can to improve.

A pastor cannot shift the responsibility for the church's financial state to the treasurer or accountant. They support him, but he is ultimately responsible.

Personal Information

N. Sebastian Desent has been the pastor of Historic Baptist Church since its founding in 1991. He has been involved in the work of the ministry since 1987.

He has worked in the secular world as a principal engineer for Hasbro, first starting in the mechanical engineering field of consumer product since 1979.

He has been involved in financial services since 2001, being federally licensed as an investment broker, a state-licensed insurance agent, a financial advisor, and a licensed mortgage agent.

Brother Desent oversees a giving church that averages over \$1,000 per year per member in missions giving, with assets over \$1 million. At the time of this writing, he has personally – by God's grace – over \$1 million in assets, including two income properties. He and his wife have – by God's grace – raised nine successful children.

He has nine children and nineteen grandchildren. His children prosper financially. Among his sons and sons-in-law, he has seven Baptist preachers, four who are pastors in Bible-believing Baptist churches.

One of his favorite Psalms is 112:

- 1 Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.
- 2 His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.
- 4 Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.
- 5 A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.
- 6 Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.
- 7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.
- 8 His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.
- 9 He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.
- 10 The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.

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Introduction

CLASS 505D EXAMPLE OF MASTER THESIS ON APPROVED SUBJECT MATTER – THE PREACHER AND FINANCES

7/10/22

Class 505 Master Thesis on Approved Subject Matter – 6 units

The Three Big Problems in Ministry – Finances, Females, and Fame

History shows what are the reasons for pastors failing in the work. They are common, and they are too common.

Financial problems come from a lack of knowledge or lack of discipline. Lack of discipline is based in lust, covetousness, lust of the eyes.

Problems with females come from a lack of wisdom and the lust of the flesh.

Being famous leads to pride of life issues and a man thinking higher of himself than he ought to think. Being popular or well-liked “goes to the head” and is a danger for preachers.

Church and Money Connection

The New Testament speaks much in respect to money. Because money is a huge part of the ministry, it is imperative that the church leadership and individual members handle money rightly.

If it were not for the teachings in the New Testament, I suppose the churches of today would have little to do with money management. However, because of the commandment doctrine of Christ, we must learn to be obedient and wise with money.

Notice these examples in the New Testament in respect to money:

1. Judas Kept the Bag

John 12:6 – This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

John 13:29 – For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.

Judas was the treasurer of the group, but he was also a thief. We know he betrayed our Lord for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15).

Having a good testimony in this area of finances is important. Note Paul’s words in Acts 20:22: “I have coveted no man’s silver, or gold, or apparel.”

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2. The Lord's Commandments

In Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the Lord sent his disciples to preach and told them to be reliant upon God:

Matthew 10:9 – Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,
10 Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the
workman is worthy of his meat.

Mark 6:8 – And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a
staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

Luke 10:4 – Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

But later in Luke 22:35-36 Jesus says this:

35 And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye
any thing? And they said, Nothing.

36 Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his
scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.

Here the Lord shows that his preachers need to be careful to have money. One can speculate that Peter was not carrying money in Acts 3, not that he was “broke.”

Acts 3:6 – Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In
the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

3. The Churches Receiving and Distributing Money

A simple reading of the New Testament shows the churches dealt with money. We supply a few passages here:

John 13:29 – For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said
unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give
something to the poor.

Acts 4:32 – And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul:
neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they
had all things common.

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus:
and great grace was upon them all.

34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands
or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man
according as he had need.

36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted,
The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,

37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

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1 Corinthians 16:1 – Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

3 And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.

4 And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.

2 Corinthians 8:1 – Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

2 Corinthians 9:1 – For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you:

2 For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.

3 Yet have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this behalf; that, as I said, ye may be ready:

4 Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting.

5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.

6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Philippians 4:15 – Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

Giving and receive Phil

There Are Many Old Testament Passages

The Old Testament supplies us wisdom in respect to money. Note these passages:

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Proverbs 27:23 – Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.

24 For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?

25 The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.

26 The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field.

27 And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance for thy maidens.

Proverbs 20:4 – The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

Ecclesiastes 5:3 – For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

Proverbs 6:1 – My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,

2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

3 Do this now, my son, deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.

4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.

5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

Money is Involved in Every Aspect of the Ministry

Every part of the ministry deals with money: Church services have collections, preachers are paid, designated offerings must be paid out, there are basic expenses for building operations, there are expenses for all ministries, missions giving has to be orderly and efficient, there are expenses for special events, etc., etc.

Any organization that functions in this world has the need of money for expenses. And, although the church is a “non-profit, tax-exempt ministry,” there are huge expenses involved.

The use of money must be addressed. It cannot be ignored or poorly managed. For this reason God gives us much wisdom in respect to finances.

The Churches Exert Much Effort in the Financial Work

Because of the New Testament's instruction on the handling of money, churches put forth a lot of effort for financial integrity.

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If one were to count the hours put into the financial watch-care of an average sized church, the hours involved are mind-boggling:

HOURS SPENT IN MONEY MANAGEMENT -- 50 GIVERS					
ACTIVITY	PERSON	HOURS SPENT PER WEEK	FACTOR	NUMBER	TOTAL HOURS
PREPARING WEEKLY TITHES AND OFFERINGS	EACH GIVER	0.25	52	50	650
SPECIAL OFFERINGS	EACH GIVER	0.25	5	50	62.5
MISSIONS GIVING	EACH GIVER	0.25	12	50	150
OFFERING TIME IN CHURCH	CHURCH	0.25	52	1	13
ACCOUNTING OF GIFTS PER PERSON	TREASURER	1	52	1	52
ISSUING GIVING RECORDS	TREASURER	20	1	1	20
TRACKING SPENDING OF THE CHURCH	TREASURER	1	52	1	52
CREATING BUDGETS	TREASURER	5	1	1	5
FINANCIAL MEETINGS	CHURCH	2	1	1	2
PAYING BILLS OF THE CHURCH	TREASURER	5	52	1	260
SORTING MISSIONS GIVING	TREASURER	1	52	1	52
SENDING MISSIONARY SUPPORT	TREASURER	5	12	1	60

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DEPOSITING FUNDS INTO BANK ACCOUNTS	TREASURER	1	52	1	52
REVIEWING BANK STATEMENT AND RECEIPTS	TREASURER	1	12	1	12
BASIC FINANCIAL UPKEEP	TREASURER	1	12	1	12
TOTAL HOURS PER YEAR					1454.5

For a 50-person giver church, we can estimate roughly 1,400 hours a year dedicated to dealing with money. Any added ministry would add to that number. Comparing that number to an average of 5 hours of services a week (260 hours in church a year), a church spends roughly 25 hours a week (5.6 times) dealing with money considering each family and the other financial management and work involved.

Imagine the effort needed to be financially faithful in a church of 100, or 500, or a thousand.

And all this falls on the preacher if there are mistakes, confusion, loss of records, mis-management, theft, etc. A preacher must be righteous and honest before God and man in dealing with money so there is no hint of impropriety/

Gifts, Administrations, and Operations

In the work of the Lord, all three Persons of the Godhead are involved. The Spirit distributes the gifts. The Lord administers the gifts, and God takes care of the operations.

1 Corinthians 12:4 – Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

Understanding this process will help to understand how money is handled.

First, the Holy Ghost motivates believers to give to certain works, give tithes and offerings, and alms.

Second, the Lord, through his church collects and administers the funds, designating and distributing them as the bride of Christ.

Third, God uses that money in the lives of the receivers to fulfill the work of the Lord.

The churches are involved in all three aspects. They document the gifts with accurate bookkeeping, they administer the gifts (funds) honestly and wisely, and they wisely use the funds for their operations

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The Pastor Occupies a Position of Trust

The pastor is held to a higher standard than any other member of the church. He must not only be above reproach, but he must give account of his stewardship. He must be responsible for the financial state of the church. He must provide things honest in the sight of men.

The pastor must be always aware of the state of his flocks and the finances, and he motivates giving and good budgeting, and wise and reduced spending. Notice these passages on giving account and being honest:

Matthew 18:23 – Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

Luke 16:2 – And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

Romans 14:12 – So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Hebrews 13:17 – Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Acts 6:3 – Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

Romans 12:17 – Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

Romans 13:13 – Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

2 Corinthians 8:21 – Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Philippians 4:8 – Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

1 Thessalonians 4:12 – That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

Hebrews 13:18 – Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

1 Peter 2:12 – Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Mis-management of funds can be excused if done by a maintenance man, a teacher, or some other worker in the church. However, the same fault in a pastor or treasurer is grounds for questioning their position.

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The responsibility of the pastor in respect to church finances should not be minimized. In fact, among the responsibilities of overseeing the church, the top five are these (taken from 1 Peter 5:1-4; Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9):

- Feed the flock of God
- Be a blameless ensample to the flock
- Rule his house well
- Rule the church well
- Stand for the truth

In respect to ruling the church, we have shown the amount of time and effort that finances take up in the work of the Lord. As with any area of leadership, the pastor should be blameless in the area of finances.

The Little Foxes Spoil the Vine

Song of Solomon 2:15 – Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.

The “little things” are the things that can cause great damage. The tongue is a little member but can wreak havoc (James 3). Bad habits can grow and multiply. A root of bitterness turns into a tree of bitterness.

As someone said, take care of the little things and the big things take care of themselves.

Financially speaking, a budget shows the main expenditures. If a budget is balanced, there should be no problems unless there is over-spending in areas. Many times, God gives a man money for one thing, and he spends it on another thing, then complains he cannot meet his obligations.

Prioritized spending, careful spending – being the “*cheapest Baptist*” around when it comes to spending will help prevent foolish spending.

When money comes in, use it to pay the important obligations. Make sure debt is minimalized, or non-existent. If there is debt, make sure the property is an asset, not a liability.

Avoid credit card usage*, avoid over-draft accounts, avoid over-paying for stuff. At the same time, money well-spent and wisely spent is good – helping others, giving to projects, investing in the work of the Lord, etc.

If he owes something that needs to be paid, he should not use money on vacations or dining out. Those luxuries must be earned, and not paid for by taking money that should be dedicated to other existing debts.

Imagine what a brother would think and feel if he saw a man who owes him money and is informed the man cannot pay for thus and thus reasons, but then sees him going on vacation or buying frivolous stuff. It is not a good testimony and this behavior is not conducive to peace and harmony.

* Recently, there is teaching that a man can use his credit card for all spending, pay it off at the end of the month before incurring charges, and get “points back.” This is risky business and sets a bad pattern – relying on banks. People tend to spend more when using plastic verse cash.

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This preacher does use credit cards for online purchases, hotels, air fares, etc.; paying them off as soon as the card is used, not waiting until the end of the month. This is done for safety and fraud reasons, not of necessity or for points.

Poverty or Poor Money Management is Not a Good Testimony

God wants his children to be heads, not tails. A leader in the church must be a head. Three things are sure:

1. God provides all our need (Philippians 4:19).
2. God gives us sufficient to operate
3. God offers wisdom freely to his children in all areas, including the financial area

If there is a lack of funds, we should be motivated to change our behavior. Causes for poverty include:

1. Not giving rightly – see 2 Corinthians 9:6-9:

6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

2. Need to work harder – see 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12:

11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

Proverbs 3:27 – Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

3. Need to better handle your finances – see Proverbs 27:23-27:

23 Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.

24 For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?

25 The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.

26 The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field.

27 And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance for thy maidens.

The pastor should be a testimony of God's grace to all people. In holiness, faithfulness, charity, giving, etc. – and especially to his church. the church should trust his financial savvy.

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Every Preacher Should Pass Scrutiny

A preacher should never be ashamed if people were to see his personal information. This information includes:

- Credit report check
- Background check
- Financial statements
- Bank statements
- Income tax forms
- Personal references
- Driving record
- Web browser history
- Library and household possessions
- Church authority
- Recommendation from current church

Frankly speaking, if a man has something to hide, he should get that corrected ASAP. His information should show moderation in all things, wise spending, faithful giving, etc.

Financial Success is 95% Discipline and 5% Wisdom

Luke 16:10 – He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

Luke 19:17 – And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

Luke 12:48 – But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

The math for budgets, accounting, financial statements, cash flow, investment return, etc., is simple and basic. It is easily understood with a little effort and teaching. The *mental* part is easy – the *muscle* part is hard.

Making and adhering to a budget is foundational to good financial practices. Every business or organization operates per a budget. But we know the making of a budget is easier than the adhering to a budget. Consequently, in today's age there are a few ways to make the budget work:

1. Make envelopes for each category, and fill those envelopes FIRST when money comes in. Do not take from these envelopes except to pay the intended accounts.
2. Create dedicated bank accounts for each category (or all) and make sure money is automatically deposited FIRST into these accounts. Do not use those accounts for any miscellaneous or other

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spending. Put those accounts on auto-pay to the debts you owe. This preacher auto pays his utilities (electric, heating, etc.) ahead of time and slightly overpays. Currently there are *credits* in these accounts that amount to thousands of dollars. When we sold our house a year ago after 25 years of ownership, we cashed in our electric company credits – nearly \$9,000. It is the same with car notes – we overpay per month on a low balance (using a very large down-payment) so we are months ahead in our payments. We put payments on 2-week payment cycles. That way, the spending is normalized. Paying every two weeks also pays debt down faster and gives an extra month a year in payments.

It is a known fact that if a person puts his mortgage payment on a two-week payment cycle (half payment every two weeks) that his 30-year mortgage is paid in 18 years.

3. Take out cash for miscellaneous spending and use only that according to the budget. Carrying and using cash for purchases make it clear how fast it can go and tends to be spent slower. When cash runs out, do not overspend.
4. If one is deeply in debt, create a debt-stacking program and stick to it.

Having Cash on Hand for Special Purchases

Cash is *a king*: Jesus is *the* King of Kings. One should enjoy saving cash on-hand than spending cash on-hand. Having \$10 - \$20K cash in a safe at home gives the feeling that one is a head and not a tail. It allows for buying an asset quickly. The pleasure of having cash is greater than the pleasure of spending. Having cash also allows a man to bless people in the Lord's work from a position of abundance. Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

One must master the discipline of saving if he is to increase his substance. When spending money one should be making money or laying up treasures in heaven.

Having large amounts of cash on-hand teaches the man to not spend. The time it takes to save compared the time it takes to spend is instilled in man when he has disposable income. He learns the value of cash and is hesitant to spend, because he knows the effort to save (using plastic has the opposite effect).

The stock market has a saying: “the bull takes the stairs, and the bear takes the window.” This means increasing value takes more time and effort than decreasing value. We say, “it's hard to save but easy to spend.” We work hours for our income, but it goes quickly.

Proverbs 23:5 – Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

Every man should create a petty cash box in his home and keep it well-stocked.

Doing Your Own Business

1 Thessalonians 4:11 – And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

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12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

Every believer should have his own business. There are a few scriptural reasons for this:

- It is commanded
- Keeps one occupied and out of trouble
- Opens up opportunities to evangelize
- Teaches one to work with his own hands (not relying on others)
- Shows an honest walk to the lost
- So you lack nothing

There are also practical advantages to having a side business:

- Learning increases
- Able to enjoy a hobby and make money at the same time
- Learn good business practices
- Allows God to bless
- The tax advantages are numerous – you pay less in taxes
- Be a help and a blessing to people

Spending Frivolously Verses Investing

Who needs a “Caddy”? It is OK to appear of humble means. Better to have and not show it, than to show it and not have (Luke 7:24-26). Buy assets instead of liabilities.

Any large purchase should be redeemable at a profit or a tax write-off. Any large purchase should be prayed about – before and after the opportunity comes up.

A preacher may easily buy a brand-new Cadillac Escalade and drive it. There is no sin in that but is that wise? What is his justification? Whom is he trying to impress? Why does he need all that luxury? Is it worth the expense and loss of value? Will it stumble a brother in the church who is struggling financially?

Instead, he can drive a nice-looking, reliable, ten-year-old vehicle with full leather, AC, power everything, that is perfect for him for 20% of the cost. Is it worth tying up \$100K and paying extra so others covet his car?

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There is nothing inherently wrong with driving a nice vehicle or living in a nice house. Just make sure you give more to God than you give for your toys.

1 Corinthians 6:12 – All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

1 Corinthians 10:23 – All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

I would much rather use the \$100K to buy income-producing property. I would rather use the funds for the Lord's work. I would rather keep the funds on-hand to see what opportunities God brings my way.

Be wise with spending. Consider the impact of spending in different areas – finances, testimony, God's will, savings, etc. If one thinks to buy on payments, he should put the payments aside first for six months to make sure he can afford them. If he taps into that savings, he cannot afford the payments. This also allows time to pray and think. Whims change rapidly. Waiting and planning for large purchases is wise.

Here are the typical money wasters:

- New cars – buy low-mileage newish cars
- Cell phones – buy previous models when new ones come out
- Travel – use travel for the Lord's work and it is tax deductible
- Dining out – limit this activity
- Boats – a hole in the water people throw money into
- Some hobbies
- Some houses. A person saving the difference between rent and mortgage will out-perform and gain on the house property.

Beware of the Dangers

We know the dangers of money. God gives his children an amount he can trust them with, or he gives them an amount to see how they multiply the amount.

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Matthew 6:24 – No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 22:19 – Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?

21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

Luke 12:15 – And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

John 2:14 – And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

Acts 8:20 – But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

1 Timothy 6:10 – For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Revelation 3:17 – Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Luke 19:16 – Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

Strive for No-Debt for Self and Require No-Debt for the Ministry.

Debt is bondage and makes one a servant – Proverbs 22:7: “The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.” One is better off to avoid debt personally as much as possible. In the ministry, all ministries must be free from bondage. If God does not provide, do not go to the world for help.

Wise Use of Debt

In respect to personal debt, this preacher understands there are cases where using debt can be a wise business decision. Take, for example, these cases:

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- Buying commercial property that will not lose value and leasing it out for more than the bank payments. In such cases, the borrower should make sure the investment is never “upside down” or leveraged too much.
- Buying business equipment that bring in income far exceeding the cost of the equipment.

Notice the image below of a property on Main Street in East Greenwich, Rhode Island:



A man with understanding looks at this property and thinks the following:

1. Good construction – brick walls, good condition
2. Good location – on main street
3. Good opportunity – the storefront will never be vacant as there are limited storefronts in this high traffic area.
4. Good money making – the second and third floors allow for rental property (apartments).
5. Good design – low maintenance, no gardening, little paint, etc.

But is it a good deal at \$4 million?

Conservatively, owning this property would bring in

BUSINESS INCOME PROPERTY			
INCOME SOURCE	AMOUNT	MONTHS	TOTAL
RENTAL OF STOREFRONT	\$4,000	12	\$48,000
APARTMENT 1	\$2,000	8	\$16,000
APARTMENT 2	\$2,000	8	\$16,000

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APARTMENT 3	\$2,000	8	\$16,000
APARTMENT 4	\$2,000	8	\$16,000
APARTMENT 5	\$2,000	8	\$16,000
APARTMENT 6	\$2,000	8	\$16,000
APARTMENT 7	\$2,000	8	\$16,000
APARTMENT 8	\$2,000	8	\$16,000
TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME PER YEAR			\$176,000

To purchase this property for say, \$4,000,000, one would need 25% down (\$1 million) and finance \$3 million costing about \$200,000 per year in payments, not including taxes, insurance, and maintenance.

Obviously, this is a bad investment. It ties up too much money and does not even pay for itself. Even at half-price it is not a good deal once you add in total cost. And the likelihood of the value increasing more than a million dollars in safe investments is low.

Taking another example, this property listed at \$350,000, and is sold.



A man of understanding looks at this property and thinks the following:

1. New construction – low probability of repair and maintenance
2. Good location – Providence
3. Good opportunity – the housing need is high in Rhode Island, and many people like to live in the city.
4. Good money making – two houses (apartments).
5. Good design – low maintenance, no gardening, new construction, etc.

But is it a good deal at \$350,000?

Income for two units with 3-bed, 1.5 bath apartments brings in \$3,600 a month, or about \$43,000 a year. Mortgage after down payment of \$90K is \$20K. With taxes, insurance, and maintenance we can assume around \$30K, providing \$1,000 of reliable income profit per month. \$90K in investments would have to

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bring in over 14% return a year to match. If you owned two of these, you would receive \$2,000 a month profit and no loss of equity.

Now let's look at an AirBNB condo:

2-bedroom, 2-bath condo costs \$240K. After \$60K down, mortgage costs and other expenses totals \$1,600 per month. Due to location, the 4-night minimum brings in \$2,400 a month, supplying \$800 profit a month. If you owned three of these, you would receive \$2,400 a month profit and no loss of equity.

Poor Credit History Haunts a Preacher

A pastor should be a principal in a church organization. He should have access to bank accounts and be able to hold a card, write checks, and interact with the bank.

If a man is not financially disciplined, financial institutions know, and he could be hindered from being put on accounts.

Even as an evangelist or a missionary, travel requires expenses and the process of offerings, etc. The ministry has to deal with money, and poor management will cause problems.

Having money issues is a poor testimony. It shows the following things:

- Shows poor judgment
- Shows irresponsibility
- Shows carelessness
- Shows poor money management
- Shows covetousness
- Shows lack of discipline and restraint
- Shows lack of awareness

Not Paying Debt is Contrary to the Word of God

Psalm 37:21 – The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.

Preachers should strive for a no-debt operation. Any debt should be self-redeemable, meaning the preacher can sell and buy himself out (not underwater).

Any debt payment should be optional, meaning he can deliver himself at any time.

Proverbs 6:1 – My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,
2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.
3 Do this now, my son, deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.
4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.

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5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

Paying Taxes is Commanded

No one likes to pay taxes. We should do whatever we can legally to keep taxes low. But taxes are part of doing business. It is a cost that has to be accounted for. We cannot avoid taxes, and God commended us to pay our taxes.

Matthew 17:24 – And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?

25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?

26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free.

27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

Romans 13:6 – For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

A fear what a man is thinking and planning when he schemes to avoid paying the rightful taxes he owes. Nothing good comes from this. In any financial planning, the cost of taxes must be considered.

Church Finances Must be Handled Well

A pastor is ultimately responsible for the financial state of the church. If he is not good with accounting, he can find someone who is. But he must always be mindful that the treasurer or the accountant is not the authority or the one who gives an answer to God and the church – he is.

He should be able to understand the trends and commitments of the church cash flow. He should be ready to address issues early before they become a problem. He can encourage giving and discourage spending. He can work to provide the things needed.

2 Corinthians 11:9 – And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.

The pastor must keep in mind these things:

- All members are privy to the books
- No poor management should be found
- Nothing to be ashamed of should be found

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Furthermore, the effort in a church's finances should maintain a high level of integrity:

- Decently and in order – 1 Corinthians 14:40 – Let all things be done decently and in order.
- Honest – 2 Corinthians 8:21 – Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.
- Nothing hidden – 2 Corinthians 4:2 – But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

A Pastor Must Set Budgets for Self and the Church

The pastor has many responsibilities – setting the church budget is one. And he learns this by setting his own family's budget.

A pastor should think portions (pie chart), and not amounts primarily. Some things are amount driven – utilities, insurance, etc. Some things are better as portions – salary, outreach, missions.

A budget follows the Income Statement below, except that maximum amounts for spending in the areas for expenses. This is the proposed spending to keep expenses reasonable and financially sound.

It is a good practice to reduce substantially or eliminate fully money wasters. This will maximize Net Income and this amount can be put toward savings and emergency funds.

A Pastor Must Know State of His Flocks

Proverbs 27:23 – Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.

24 For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?

25 The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.

26 The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field.

27 And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance for thy maidens.

We learn from the passage above that one should be diligent to know the state of his sheep and the state of his assets. Today, we track our finances by having a Financial Statement.

We see above in verses 24-27 that things fluctuate, but by careful management there is enough for clothing, for taxes and savings, and enough provision for all.

God provides enough to a man, a family, and a church. Being careful as to how money is spent means there enough to meet the needs.

A financial statement has two parts:

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1. The Income Statement: this shows income, expenses, and cash flow. Defines *Net Income*
2. The Balance Sheet: this shows assets and liabilities. Defines *Net Worth*

A sample Income Statement is shown below. Basically, it shows what comes in (income) and what goes out (expenses). Every household, business, and church should have this. The most important rule is that you have more coming in than going out.

Personal Financial Statement Template	
Name	-
Home Address	-
Contact Details	
Financial Information as of..	-
Income Statement for the Year Ended...	
Annual Income	Amount
Salary	\$0.00
Part-time Income	\$0.00
Net Investment Income	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$0.00
Dividend Income	\$0.00
Real Estate Income	\$0.00
Other Investment Income	\$0.00
Bonus	\$0.00
Capital Gains	\$0.00
Other Income	\$0.00
Total Income	\$0.00
Annual Expenditures	
Groceries	\$0.00
Services	\$0.00
Apparel expenses	\$0.00
Entertainment	\$0.00
Grooming expenses	\$0.00
Personal Insurance	\$0.00
Fuel expenses	\$0.00
Conveyance	\$0.00
Home Rent	\$0.00
Insurance	\$0.00
School Loan Payment	\$0.00
Car EMI	\$0.00
Retail Payment	\$0.00
Credit Card Payment	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$0.00
Net Income / Loss	\$0.00

A sample Balance Sheet is shown below. It basically shows what you have of value (assets) and what you have as debt (liabilities). Subtracting the liabilities from the assets gives you your equity or Net Worth. The most important rule is that the Net Worth continues to increase over time.

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PERSONAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT (MONTHLY)		
John Smith <small>NAME</small>	<Month> <small>MONTH</small>	<YYYY> <small>YEAR</small>
ASSETS		
	Amount (\$)	
Cash - Checking Accounts	50,000.00	
Cash - Savings Accounts	150,000.00	
Time Deposit	80,000.00	
Securities - Stocks / Bonds / Mutual Funds	64,000.00	
Notes & Contract Receivable	90,000.00	
Life Insurance / Cash surrender value)	500,000.00	
Personal property (Autos, Jewelry, etc.)	70,000.00	
Retirement Funds (e.g. IRAs,40B, etc.)	34,000.00	
Real Estate (Market Value)	1,700,000.00	
Total Assets	2,738,000.00	
LIABILITIES		
Current Debt (e.g. Credit Cards, etc.)	85,000.00	
Notes Payable	350,000.00	
Tax Payable	46,000.00	
Real Estate Mortgages	710,000.00	
Total Liabilities	1,191,000.00	
Net Worth	1,547,000.00	
NOTE		

Regular Financial Reports to the Church

Most churches have this scheduled at the business meetings. It is a time to review the church’s financial position. A pastor should have ready a budget, a financial statement, and proposed capital expenditures; to report to the church

Mis-spending or Over-spending Provokes Grumbling and Questions

A pastor’s prudence is called into question when there is spending that is questionable, regardless of who did the spending. He cannot “pass the buck” to the treasurer or the accountant. They are for support, but they are not ultimately responsible for the church’s financial condition.

Consequently, any strange or questionable spending should be explainable to a reasonable person. Usually, when finances are good, people are flexible. But extra scrutiny can be expected when money is tight.

Furthermore, a pastor’s testimony is called into question if money is tight. For example, if the church is struggling to meet their financial commitments, a pastor driving up in a new car – even if it was a gift or bought with his own funds – is seen as a point of contention. People may not understand or have the details, but they naturally wonder why there is extravagance in financially tough times.

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If a preacher had the funds to buy a new car, he would be better to first make sure the church looks good before serving himself. God blesses this effort.

Side note: a preacher also needs to be careful to show extravagance if some members are struggling financially. People having resentment or envy due to a preacher's spending is not worth the grief. He needs to be mindful of this. He must gauge the sensitivity of the people and the church finances.

Although we want to be gentle, the word of God shows that money in the hands of certain types can be bad. Note these passages:

Psalm 73:3 – For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.
18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

Proverbs 1:32 – For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

As the House, So Goes the Church

1 Timothy 3:5 – (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

It should be obvious that personal financial habits of the pastor will affect the church finances. A spendthrift at home could be hurtful to the church. We should spend the church's money (i.e., God's money) as if it were our own, and even more carefully.

I believe there are good things that result from a man struggling financially. I list a few here:

- He learns to trust God
- He learns to pray hard for things
- He learns to limit spending
- He learns to budget
- He learns to work harder
- He learns to tithe and support missions even when he must go without
- He learns to appreciate what he has and what he receives
- He learns God is faithful
- He learns how little he needs

As a personal testimony, as a pastor and a father, we have enjoyed many years of financial struggle. Through this time we learned valuable lessons that pay off later in life.

Furthermore, a pastor needs to oversee the finances at home. He should *never* leave this responsibility to his wife. As with the church treasurers and accountants, he may have his wife assist, but he needs to know and be responsible for everything that is spent. No spending should be done "blindly," that is, without knowing the repercussions.

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Churches Need Bank Accounts

Although there are a few churches that operate without banking services, for the most part churches need bank accounts. Attempting to operate a church as a cash only business is impractical.

There are these reasons and advantages of having bank accounts:

- A church needs a safe place for funds
- A church needs to pay bills effectively and efficiently (bill pay)
- A church needs to process gifts in check form and online giving
- A church needs to send missions support abroad

Churches and Families Need Reserves

Whether called a store, and emergency fund, or a savings account, both churches and families need a reserve fund.

Proverbs 27:24 – For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?

Proverbs 6:6 – Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

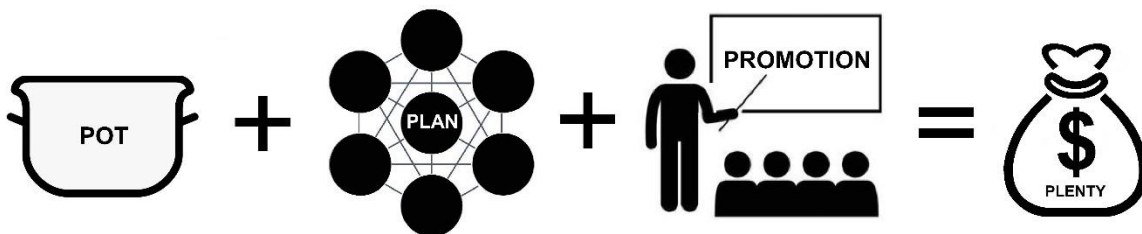
7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

Saving when times are good – like Joseph did during the years of plenty in Egypt – is wise. Finances fluctuate. There are things that affect even the best-laid budgets:

- Job situations
- Inflation
- Unexpected expenses
- Needs change
- Special offerings

Having reserves comes only by a disciplined saving effort. Furthermore, if there is a known need or want, families and churches should save for that needs so God can bless. These “projects” that need funding usually come to pass if there is a *pot* for the offerings, a *plan* for the giving, and regular *promotion* to give (see Exodus 36:3-7).



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Jesus Wants a Return on Investments

Luke 19:15 – And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

Every Pastor Should Show Preparation

Here are few things a pastor should have to be an ensample to the flock in respect to finances:

- Savings
- Investments
- Insurance
- Emergency fund

The Pastor Should Be he “*Cheapest Baptist*” in the Church

By being cheap, we mean he is the least inclined to spend church funds. The preacher should be hesitant and slow to spend church funds. Special needs should be financed by special collections.

If there is a project or mission that needs funding, he shows by example to give to it and motivate others to give to it.

However, in respect to helping its members or giving to missions, the church should be generous.

Panhandlers, Alms, and the Poor

Almost every church has visitors looking for a handout. For some reason, people think churches have money to give away.

A preacher can budget for benevolent works if desired, but from the scriptures we see giving to the poor was for those “poor saints.”

Romans 15:26 – For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

Jesus did comment on giving to the poor:

Matthew 26:11 – For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.

Matthew 19:21 – Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

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The Old Testament has much to say in respect to the poor:

Proverbs 30:15 – The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough:

Proverbs 19:17 – He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Considering the passages and personal experience, my judgment in respect to giving to the poor is thus:

1. I do not want to give God's money to the poor, for I know not how they will spend it. Furthermore, God's money is to be used for God's work.
2. The church has a responsibility to give to "poor saints," that means people who are true believers with a true need. We must first help those of our own household of faith (our church members) before helping others.
3. In respect to the needy, we *as individuals* should give alms. God will bless this work. Consequently, if someone looks to the church to give, the people individually – as an alms deed – can give to that person.
4. As a practice I do not give to those who use money for a vice. If they are drunkards or carry cigarettes, I do not give to them. This giving perpetuates bad behavior. 2 John 1: "For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."
5. I do not promote "taking up an offering" for a stranger. But I will for a brother in need.
6. Bad planning on the part of some (usually is a life-long pattern) does not make it urgent to me to fix their problems. One lady asked for the church to buy her a few days in a hotel because she was "homeless" and living in her car. I asked how long she has been living in her car "homeless." She said eighteen years.

The Pastor is a Pattern of Giving, Spending, and Saving

The pastor should always be an ensample and pattern for the church. He is a hypocrite who asks others to give when he won't give himself.

Church members will resent it when a pastor that is less financially disciplined than themselves. Church members learn to be disciplined, save, go without, scrimp, give tithes and offering, etc., based on the money they handle. When they see their pastor not having the same respect in finances, it will cause them to wonder why. What answer can the preacher give? "I am the shepherd and I shear the sheep"? That response won't work for long.

Members want to be confident their pastor is managing their hard-earned money when they give it. The tendency to "hold-on" to money after it is given to the Lord is common. Especially the member who give large amounts want to make sure money is not being wasted. For this reason, a pastor needs to manage money well and show where every penny goes. Without good records, people will complain and murmur. They tend to imagine the worst.

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Setting Financial Thermostats

A financial thermostat is a setting every person has for various financial measurements:

- What salary he is worthy of
- What minimum balance he accepts in his or the church's accounts
- How much cash he keeps on-hand
- What he gives to missions

These settings should incrementally increase over time.

The poor have low settings. Usually it is "zero." Therefore, if they get a windfall, they tend to spend down until they reach their financial thermostat.

Sometimes a wife will have a low financial thermostat for her private account. If you give her a thousand dollars and her thermostat is set at \$200, you will find in a few week that amount in her account.

Sometimes we set financial thermostats for various accounts, then put the excess in savings or investments. This is a good practice. A financial setting for an account is dependent upon the usage and cash flow. A minimum of two to ten times the cashflow is a good setting for operating accounts. This is equivalent to having reserves in each account.

Setting Reserves for All Accounts

Having reserves is needed in personal, business, and church accounts. Especially with churches, the income fluctuates. People leave, people forget to give, people have issues.

A pastor must be wise enough to make sure the accounts have "more coming in than going out." Secondly, he should not overspend out of an account if it will drop too low. He should wait or ask for a special offering.

Underspending Mission Budgets

In respect to missions, our missionaries depend on God and our support. If we promise them support, we should keep that promise. They should be last to lose in budget cuts.

As a practice, the pastor should never over-commit missions. We encourage and practice faith-promise giving, and that account (as all others) should have more coming in than going out. When there is sufficient comfort that the income to that account is reliable, and there is sufficient to take on another missionary, the church should do so. Furthermore, from time-to-time, if there is a large reserve in a dedicated account, that money can be used to help a missionary with a special project.

For example, if the church promises \$150 a month to support a particular missionary, and the church give \$200 a month, that is a blessing. My view as a pastor is to promise less than what is expected. So, for example, if faith-promise comes in at \$4,000 a month, the preacher should commit about \$3,500.

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Furthermore, that missions account should have reserves so if the mission giving stops completely, the preacher can still give a few months after notice to the missionaries. As a practice, I do not want to pay out more than 50% of what is in the account to missions.

Planning for Special Meetings and Purchases

As with any project, meetings should be planned and financed ahead of time. Do not rely on giving during the campaign to make ends meet. Plan early, save the funds, make sure every expense is prepared to be paid, then have the meeting. Any extra income during the meeting can be added to the giving.

Some will say, where is the faith in that? The problem with this thinking is the faith of that unprepared man usually must be borne on the back of a prepared man, and many times a people go without. Inviting preachers to speak and “hoping” they get a good love offering is not a good work. This is not hospitality or ethical. Don’t have a “champagne taste and a beer budget” when it comes to God’s work (apologies for the vernacular).

Good Giving

There is good giving, and there is bad giving. Good giving involves giving to good things, laying up treasures in heaven.

Bad giving is when the gift interferes with God’s work, God’s chastisement, or encourages sin or enables bad behavior.

For example, if God is trying to keep a man home and his car gets damaged, be prayerful about fixing his car for him. If a woman wants to go out partying and needs a baby-sitter, be wise before committing to babysit.

Giving to man who says he needs money, but he has a pack of cigarettes in his pocket shows me he spends money for that. Why should I enable poor behavior by giving him money? How much less inclined to give will I be when he “lights up” in front of me on church grounds?

Good giving promotes treasures being laid up in heaven. There are many passages that teach this truth. Please refer to the passages in Lesson 10.:

The Working Preacher

God informs us there is work in the ministry (Matthew 10:10; Mark 13:34; John 4:34; 5:17; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Ephesians 4:12; 1 Timothy 3:1). This, a preacher understands. The number of things needing to be done in the independent Baptist ministry, as a pastor, as an evangelist, takes up the time of a full-time job. Few would dispute this.

The first thing to understand in this respect is that it is a commanded activity for a preacher to receive remuneration from a church or group to whom he ministers by preaching and teaching. A failure to do this breaks a commandment, cut short the arm of the Lord, and it is setting a bad precedent for the church. The pastor *must* take some form of payment – even if it a token gesture.

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It is not noble but *disobedient*, when a pastor says that since the church cannot afford to pay me, I will take no salary. The pastor should teach his congregation that the only way for the church to prosper is by giving rightly. The pastor should be man who can show the church how to prosper.

Note these passages showing a pastor should be paid:

1 Corinthians 9:7 – Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

8 Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?

9 For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

10 Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

12 If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

1 Timothy 5:17 – Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

However, in contrast, the same man who wrote the above – our beloved brother Paul – went the second mile and labored with his own hands. Although he did not have to work and could have taken money from churches he ministered to, he instead worked with his own hands. He did receive from the churches for their benefit (see Philippians 4:15-18); but Paul also worked with his own hands, for these reasons:

1. He wanted to be a good testimony
2. He wanted to set himself as a pattern to follow
3. He did not want people to think he was after money or give an occasion to the adversaries
4. He wanted to not be a burden to churches
5. He wanted to help his fellow-laborers with their needs
6. He did not want to make his glorying void
7. So that he could be a giver and not a taker
8. He knew it was blessed to give than to receive
9. So he could preach to others to work hard without being a hypocrite

Consider these passages of scripture:

Acts 20:35 – I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

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1 Corinthians 4:12 – And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

1 Corinthians 9:6 – Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?

14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

15 But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.

18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Ephesians 4:28 – Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

1 Thessalonians 4:11 – And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

Understanding the testimony and teaching of Paul, a preacher has no reason to lack anything. If man pastors a prosperous church that can support him, God be praised. If a man pastors a church that cannot pay him sufficiently, he can work and make ends meet.

And, especially, if a church struggles financially, the pastor should be a pattern to follow in the area of working and giving.

Being an Asset Not a Burden

Many secular companies had employees who they consider “deadwood.” These companies take the opportunity for lay-offs to address non-productive personnel.

A church is different. The work is a ministry. But in the same sense, if a church is paying a pastor and they do not see a good return for their investment, trouble will follow.

And, if a pastor works hard and the church is not taking good care of him, that will cause problems also. God may move the man.

Unfortunately, we know not every church and every preacher follows the will of God.

The pastor must be an asset to the church. He should be the pattern for all to follow. He must be willing to be a servant. And he should lead in the pattern of giving. He should never ask any member to do something he has not done.

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If being poor makes it so he cannot give to a special project, he should not ask others to do it. This does not mean he has to give the most, but he has to give some. It is the principle God has given that we “do and teach” (Acts 1:1).

Leaving the Church Rightly – Big Offerings

It is sad to see as a common practice men leaving churches for “greener pastures.” Church-hopping among disgruntled members is common, but church-hopping pastors is a shame. What happened to the call of God? What happened to man being faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2)? What ever happened to finishing the work (John 17:4)?

A pastor leaving a church for another because of God’s will should be evidenced by all concerned (both churches and the pastor) being in favor and giving their blessing. A pastor, like any other church member, should not move his membership without the receiving church requesting a recommendation and the member’s church giving it.

When a pastor (who is a church member) leaves a church, he should be mindful to leave that church in a very good financial situation. He should give a big offering, have all things set in order, and have people in place to make the transition as seamless as possible.

All concerned should be blessed and not suffer for the change in leadership. This type of behavior is a blessing to God and shows that God indeed is working.

Practical Exercises for Each Lesson

The teacher or student will find there are exercises at the end of each lesson. The student should try to use his real-life situation as much as possible when doing these exercises. They are intended to help the students in a practical way.

The Connection to Love Commandment Doctrine

One cannot serve God and Mammon. We serve Jesus Christ. We understand we have *the use* of funds or property during our short pilgrimage on this earth. We can leave our assets to our children (Proverbs 13:22). We can set up a church or ministry in good condition.

Love for Christ, love for the church, and love for our families should provoke the preacher to be the best he can be at managing money.

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Lesson 1: Financial Basics

I. All Money is God's

- A. First Lesson: God owns everything
- B. Psalm 50:10 – For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.
- C. 11 I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine.
- D. Leviticus 25:23 – The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.
- E. Haggai 2:8 – The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.
- F. Psalm 115:16 – The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.
- G. Job 41:11 – Who hath prevented me, that I should repay him? whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine.
- H. Genesis 14:18 – And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.
- I. 19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:
- J. Ezekiel 18:4 – Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.
- K. Ephesians 4:6 – One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

II. We Only Have the Use of Property

- A. Second Lesson: We only have the use of stuff
- B. We really do not own anything
- C. Anything we have we receive from God
- D. 1 Corinthians 4:6 – And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.
- E. 7 For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?
- F. 8 Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.
- G. Job 1:21 – And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.
- H. 1 Timothy 6:7 – For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
- I. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.
- J. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

III. We Shall Give Account

- A. Third Lesson: We shall give an account for what we did with what we have

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- B. Luke 16:2 – And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.
- C. Romans 14:12 – So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.
- D. 1 Peter 4:5 – Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

IV. Spend Less Than Income

- A. Fourth Lesson: Spend less than your income
- B. Avoid debt
- C. Live below your means
- D. Live in abundance
- E. 2 Corinthians 9:7 -- Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
- F. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

V. The Need for Discipline

- A. Fifth Lesson: Have discipline in spending
- B. Practice budgeting and adhering to a budget
- C. 5% knowledge (math, wisdom), 95% discipline
- D. Discipline exercised bears fruit in controlling spending and learning the value of having funds on-hand

VI. Plan for the Future

- A. Sixth Lesson: Save money
- B. Prepare for the future
- C. Proverbs 6:6 – Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:
- D. 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,
- E. 8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.
- F. 9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?
- G. 10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:
- H. 11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.
- I. Work extra to save money of needed
- J. Every budget should have a savings portion
- K. Every budget should have an emergency fund

VII. Exercise Faith in Finances

- A. Seventh lesson: Exercise faith in your finances
- B. Obedience in tithes
- C. Giving generously
- D. Allow time to sow and reap
- E. God will bless if you are working for the same goals

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- F. Matthew 23:23 – Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.
- G. Hebrews 7:9 – And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.
- H. Luke 6:38 – Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.
- I. Acts 20:35 – I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

VIII. Know the State of Flocks

- A. Eighth lesson: Keep track of your funds
- B. Proverbs 27:23 – Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.
- C. 24 For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?
- D. 25 The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.
- E. 26 The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field.
- F. 27 And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance for thy maidens.
- G. Men should keep a financial statement for every household, business, church, or other organization that has cashflow and assets.
- H. Men should check bank balances everyday

IX. Practical Systems

- A. Online banking
- B. Bill pay options
- C. Deny overdraft protection
- D. Envelopes system with cash – put aside designated payments
- E. Multiple accounts
- F. Dedicated accounts

X. Setting Financial Goals

- A. Set short-term and long-term financial goals
- B. Budgets
- C. Income
- D. Savings
- E. Emergency funds
- F. Debt pay-off
- G. Investments
- H. Financial thermostats

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XI. Practical Exercises:

- A. Document the types and amounts of income and financial obligations. Evaluate and pray over each one to determine whether the expense should be continued. Identify frivolous or unnecessary spending.
- B. Also identify and gather documents that show income, savings, investments, assets, etc.; as these documents will be used to create a financial analysis, budget, and a financial statement.
- C. Read and meditate upon the passages of scripture shown on pages 5-6.

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Lesson 2: Handling Money is a Spiritual Work

I. The Head of the Family is Responsible for the Finances

- A. Ephesians 5:23 – For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.
- B. 1 Timothy 5:8 – But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

II. Avoiding Financial Discipline is Shirking Responsibility

- A. Problems do not go away – they get worse
- B. Women tend to deal with money from an emotional point of view – they operate in the “now”
- C. Men deal with finances to lower risk – they see ahead in time
- D. Men should not leave the finances to the wife

III. Handling Money Rightly Before God

- A. The man’s responsibility is to manage money according to God’s will
- B. God blesses and helps when a man strives to do things rightly
- C. Pray for money
- D. Plan for spending
- E. Prepare for the future
- F. Including God in any area (including the finances) means God will bless that area.
- G. You cannot expect God’s blessings if you shut him out.

IV. The Pastor’s Responsibility is to Oversee the Church

- A. First priority – protect the sheep
- B. Second priority – feed the sheep
- C. Third priority – oversee all functions of the ministry
- D. This includes finances
- E. John 10:12 – But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.
- F. 13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.
- G. 1 Peter 5:1 – The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:
- H. 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
- I. 3 Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.
- J. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

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V. **Practical Exercises:**

- A. Evaluate your giving to the work of the Lord. Calculate what you give for tithe, offerings, missions, and alms.
- B. Pray over what you are giving. Ask God if he approves of the amounts.
- C. Identify what increases or changes should be made.

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Lesson 3: Being Faithful in Least and in Much

I. Jesus' Parable in Luke 16:8-13

- A. Luke 16:8 – And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.
- B. 9 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.
- C. 10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.
- D. 11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?
- E. 12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?
- F. 13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

II. The Children of This World Commended

- A. They are wiser in their generation than the children of light
- B. The children of this generation operate without God's help and direction for the most part
- C. The children of this generation plan for their future
- D. The children of this world use money to "feather their beds"
- E. The children of this world prepare for emergencies

III. Make Friends of Mammon

- A. Good friend
- B. Good servant
- C. Poor master
- D. Mammon is a friend and will receive you in heaven if money is used rightly
- E. Gold is good
- F. Money is useful and necessary
- G. Ecclesiastes 10:19 – A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things.

IV. Faithful or Unfaithful in the Least

- A. The least is the measure
- B. All we have here on earth is least
- C. Heaven has the true riches
- D. Take care of the little things – nothing is too little
- E. Take care of pennies and the dollars take care of themselves

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V. **You Cannot Serve God and Mammon**

- A. Make mammon a friend and a servant
- B. Have money work for you
- C. Use money for the kingdom's sake

VI. **Practical Exercises:**

- A. Identify the small expenditures by reviewing bank statements. Identify and add up the total cost of small spending that is not required spending. This exercise shows the effect of small spending over time.
- B. Spending on personal likes is allowed. However, if a family is having trouble paying their financial obligations, a "tightening of the belt" is needed, at least until other changes come into effect.
- C. Using a record of what is being spent, list the expenditures in order of importance and necessity. For example, Tithe, offerings, and alms are first. Taxes are next. Debt payments are next. Savings and future planning are fourth (pay yourself). Then follows food, housing, transportation, clothing, and other necessities. Lastly are the incidental personal desires that are optional.

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Lesson 4: Tithes, Offerings, and Alms

I. Honor the Lord with Your Substance

- A. Proverbs 3:9 – Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:
- B. 10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.
- C. Malachi 3:8 – Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.
- D. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.
- E. 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.
- F. 11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.
- G. 12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

II. The Tithe is the Lord's

- A. Leviticus 27:26 – Only the firstling of the beasts, which should be the LORD's firstling, no man shall sanctify it; whether it be ox, or sheep: it is the LORD's.
- B. 30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD.
- C. Tithing is honoring the Lord
- D. Weekly giving is a reminder that God owns everything
- E. God blesses the family that tithes
- F. A preacher hinders the financial increase of the members of the church if he does not teach they should tithe
- G. Too stingy to tithe? Give more than 10%.
- H. People who struggle financially generally do not pay God his tithe
- I. People who prosper in the church generally pay God his tithe
- J. God promises to pour out a blessing
- K. God promises to rebuke the devourer
- L. Haggai 1:6 – Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.
- M. Note: even if a man is stubborn and believes Christians are not commanded to tithe, the blessings of God are still upon those who tithe. They still reap the blessing of Abraham. Abraham tithed before the law and Jesus said we ought to tithe (see Matthew 23:23, Luke 16:16).

III. Offerings

- A. Offerings are giving freely from the heart

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- B. 2 Corinthians 8:6 – But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.
- C. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
- D. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:
- E. Special offerings in the church for special needs or projects
- F. Missions giving and Faith-promise giving
- G. Proverbs 11:24 – There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.
- H. 25 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

IV. Alms

- A. Alms giving is giving to the poor
- B. Proverbs 19:17 – He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.
- C. Alms is found only in the New Testament
- D. Alms is personal giving to those i need
- E. Matthew 6:1 – Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.
- F. 2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.
- G. 3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:
- H. 4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.
- I. Luke 12:33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

V. Practical Exercises:

- A. Analyze your giving record. If any gaps. Pray over these and ask God to help maintain a faithful giving practice.
- B. Calculate your tithes and offerings to make sure they are accurate and commensurate for your financial state. A tithe is 10% of income and increases (other profits), and offerings should range between 5-10% additionally and they include missions giving. Offerings are freewill and given from the heart. The 5-10% number are based on what we have seen normally – this is not a dictated number. Some people give less, some much more.
- C. If you have a project you want to give to or if there is some program at church that needs funding, pray about an amount to give and prepare accordingly, whether it involves savings, selling stuff, doing a side job, etc.

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Lesson 5: No Debt Principles

I. Avoid Debt

- A. Proverbs 6:1-11:
- B. 1 My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,
- C. 2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.
- D. 3 Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.
- E. 4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.
- F. 5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.
- G. 6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:
- H. 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,
- I. 8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.
- J. 9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?
- K. 10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:
- L. 11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want j as an armed man

II. Operate in Liberty

- A. Proverbs 22:7 – The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.
- B. Galatians 5:13 – For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

III. Short-term Covetousness Equals Long-term Bondage

- A. Psalm 10:3 – For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.
- B. Psalm 119:36 – Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.
- C. Proverbs 21:26 – He coveteth greedily all the day long; but the righteous giveth and spareth not.
- D. Luke 12:15 – And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.
- E. Romans 7:7 – What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.
- F. Ephesians 5:3 – But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;
- G. 5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
- H. Colossians 3:5 – Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:
- I. 1 Timothy 3:3 – Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;
- J. 1 Timothy 6:10 – For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

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IV. **Maintain the Ability to Deliver Yourself**

- A. Never be underwater in a debt
- B. Be able to pay off any debts immediately
- C. Do not make bad decisions in respect to debt

V. **Keeping the Church Out of Debt is Mandatory**

- A. There is no justification for debt
- B. Debt is never needed
- C. God supplies all
- D. Church is supported by God's people, God's way
- E. Prayer, patience, and prudence is what is needed

VI. **Practical Exercises:**

- A. Identify the debts you owe. Separate debts that are long-term and those you want to pay off as fast as possible.
- B. Make a list identifying balances owed and payment amounts
- C. Sort debts by interest rates, highest to lowest.
- D. Debts with lower balances and higher payments should be paid off first. Looking at the list usually shows which debts should be targeted first – i.e., “more bang for the buck.”
- E. Debt-stacking: create a debt-stacking plan where you can pay off debts faster. This means, take the payments from paid off accounts and add that amount to the next debt to pay it off faster.
- F. The house mortgage is usually last on the list to pay off.

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Lesson 6: No Mun, No Fun

I. Desent Four Rules of Finance

- A. Work hard
- B. No debt
- C. Be generous
- D. No mun – no fun

II. No Mun, No Fun

- A. Diversions are acceptable to God in moderation and under right conditions
- B. Families can enjoy many things without large expense
- C. Use planned funds for vacations and unnecessary spending
- D. Do not take from that which is needed to pay for that which is not needed

III. Plan for Large Expenditures

- A. Vacations and trips
- B. Gifts and events
- C. Improvements and major purchases
- D. Cash only

IV. Prioritize Your Spending

- A. Operate per a budget
- B. Create special savings for special purchases

V. Practical Exercises:

- A. Institute a *no mun – no fun* policy. This means, if you cannot afford a diversion or a treat, go without. Do not take from what is owed to another for yourself. That is a form of theft.
- B. Plan for vacations, diversions, etc., *after* the bills are paid. You may have to save up for this. Do not put these things on credit.

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Lesson 7: Budgets

I. All Organizations Should Have Budgets

- A. Controls spending
- B. Appropriates funds
- C. Allows for some liberty
- D. Shows limits
- E. Prevents over-spending
- F. Prevents hardship
- G. Keeps spending in-line with income
- H. Provokes good money management
- I. Surplus amounts can be put into savings

II. Budgets for Churches

- A. All churches should have budgets
- B. Include all necessary expenses
- C. Review the budget regularly
- D. Use separate accounts if needed
- E. Allow for savings

III. Personal Budgets

- A. Needed to show where losses go
- B. Controls spending, especially when things are tight financially
- C. Shows where money is going and gives opportunity to lower expenses
- D. Shows the shortfall

IV. Practical Exercises:

- A. Create your personal budget
- B. Create a budget for the church
- C. Identify shortfalls.
- D. Put plans into place to address shortfalls.

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Lesson 8: Financial Statements Basics

I. Financial Statements – Always Needed

- A. Every organization that handles money should have a documented financial statement
- B. Pastor's home should have a financial statement
- C. The church should have a financial statement
- D. Financial statements have two parts:
 - The Income Statement: this shows income, expenses, and cash flow. Defines Net Income
 - The Balance Sheet: this shows assets and liabilities. Defines Net Worth

II. The Income Statement

- A. The income statement shows cashflow
- B. Documents all income and all disbursements
- C. Defines net income
- D. Things to list are given below
- E. Top section: Income
 - All regular income and the sources (monthly)
 - Any other income from gifts, annuities, refunds, etc.
 - Total income (adding up all above)
- F. Middle section: Expenses
 - All payments (expenses) made and the receivers (monthly)
 - Losses
 - Include savings
 - Total disbursements (expenses)
- G. Bottom section: Net Income
 - Net Income
 - Subtract middle section from the top section
 - Should be positive or even
 - Net income defined

III. The Balance Sheet

- A. The balance sheet shows assets and liabilities
- B. Documents all valuable property
- C. Defines net worth

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D. Things listed on the balance sheet shown below.

E. Top section: All assets

- Cash
- Investments
- Savings
- Property values
- Total assets

F. Middle section: All liabilities

- Mortgages
- Loans
- Credit cards
- Notes payable
- Total liabilities

G. Bottom section: Net Worth

- Subtract middle section from top section

IV. **Practical Exercises:**

A. Create your personal Financial Statement

B. Identify assets and liabilities

C. Consider ways to turn liabilities into assets – home based business, use vehicle for business, etc.

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Lesson 9: Savings and Investments

I. Savings Must be a Priority

- A. Savings should be part of the budget
- B. Money disbursement priorities:
 - Tithes
 - Offerings
 - Taxes
 - Debts
 - Savings
 - Emergency funds
 - Living expenses
 - Other needs
 - Desires
- C. Proverbs 11:16 – A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches.

II. Better to Save than to Spend

- A. Have multiple accounts and funds
- B. Savings accounts
- C. Cash on-hand
- D. Roth IRA
- E. 401K
- F. Pensions
- G. Annuities
- H. Property
- I. Precious metals

III. Savings Involve Time and Money

- A. Money saved over time grows
- B. Regularly putting money in savings adds up quickly
- C. Fifty dollars a week is \$2,600 a year saved
- D. Ten years is \$26,000. Thirty years is \$78,000
- E. Savings amount can be increased over time
- F. Extra income can be added to savings over time
- G. Spending from savings is controlled because the man understands the effort and time exerted to save that amount.

IV. One Never Regrets Having a Savings Fund

- A. Setup multiple accounts and have automatic payments to those accounts.

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B. Leave those counts alone and let time have its effect.

V. Spinning One's Wheels

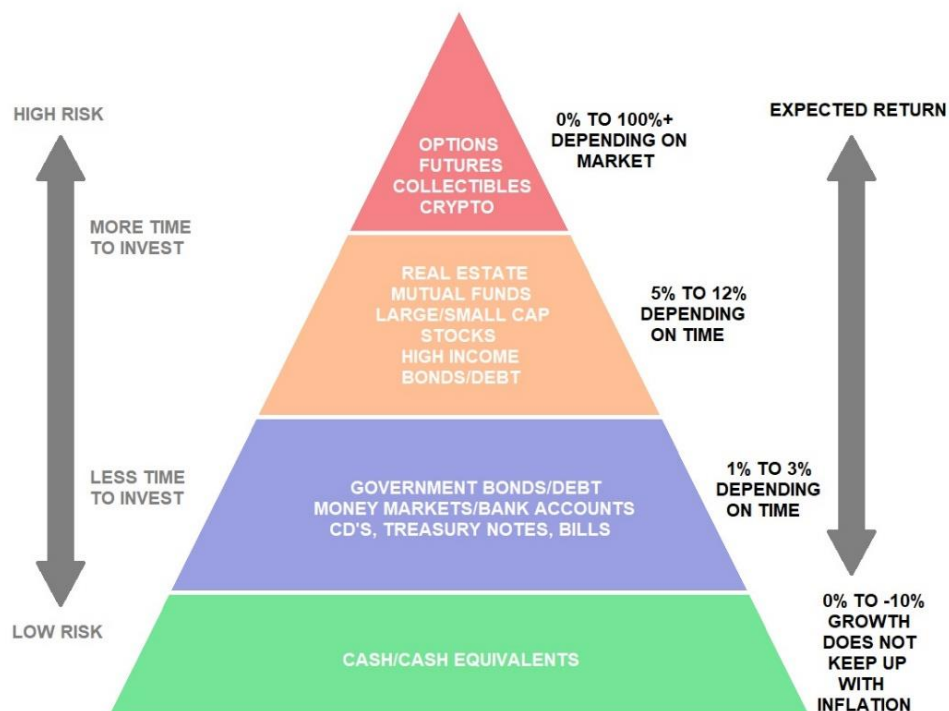
- A. If you work ten years and have nothing saved, after ten years you have nothing to show for your labor in the bank
- B. Saving 10% a year will help in old age
- C. Investing adds a return to the amount

VI. Churches Should Help their Pastors

- A. Churches should have some program to invest for their pastor
- B. Monthly payments to a retirement fund
- C. Payments to an annuity
- D. Portion out property over time – 4% a year

VII. Basic Investing

- A. Requires regular buying of funds or stocks
- B. Dollar Cost Averaging of shares over time – buy more at low cost, by less at high cost
- C. Risk versus return – where are you?



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- D. Some properties increase substantially over a short time depending on trends and inflation.
- E. Investing usually takes paper, property, precious metals 10-year cycles. When paper is low, property is high, precious metal moderately high; etc.

VIII. Sample Projections

- A. Investing in mutual funds is a safe instrument for the low amount investor (under \$250K).
- B. There are many mutual funds that average over 12% return in ten-year periods
- C. The projection chart below shows the impact of choosing higher returns

AMOUNT SAVED PER MONTH	TIME					
	RATE OF RETURN	1 YEAR	5 YEARS	10 YEARS	20 YEARS	30 YEARS
\$50	2%	\$606	\$3,157	\$6,647	\$14,764	\$24,667
	6%	\$619	\$3,506	\$8,235	\$23,217	\$50,476
	12%	\$640	\$4,124	\$11,617	\$49,957	\$176,495
\$100	2%	\$1,213	\$6,315	\$13,249	\$29,528	\$48,354
	6%	\$1,240	\$7,012	\$16,470	\$46,435	\$100,954
	12%	\$1,280	\$8,248	\$23,234	\$99,915	\$352,991
\$200	2%	\$2,426	\$12,630	\$26,588	\$59,057	\$98,709
	6%	\$2,479	\$14,024	\$32,940	\$92,870	\$201,907
	12%	\$2,562	\$21,151	\$46,468	\$199,829	\$705,983
\$300	2%	\$3,639	\$18,946	\$39,882	\$88,586	\$149,064
	6%	\$3,719	\$21,035	\$49,409	\$139,305	\$302,861
	12%	\$3,843	\$24,746	\$69,702	\$299,744	\$1,058,974
\$400	2%	\$4,852	\$25,261	\$55,176	\$118,115	\$197,418
	6%	\$4,959	\$28,047	\$65,879	\$185,740	\$403,815
	12%	\$5,124	\$32,994	\$92,935	\$399,659	\$1,411,965
\$500	2%	\$6,065	\$31,576	\$66,470	\$147,644	\$246,773
	6%	\$6,198	\$35,059	\$82,348	\$232,175	\$504,769
	12%	\$6,404	\$41,243	\$116,169	\$499,574	\$1,764,957

IX. Practical Exercises:

- A. Set up multiple savings accounts
- B. Auto-pay to these accounts per budgets. Set-up and forget. Avoid tapping into these accounts.

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- C. Learn to enjoy saving more than spending.
- D. Set up a retirement account or evaluate current retirement accounts for financial independence planning.
- E. Set up a Roth IRA
- F. Set up a cash box for cash on-hand

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Lesson 10: Diversified Portfolio of Heavenly Investments

I. Ask God to Give You a Number of Souls to Win in Your Life

- A. God can answer a prayer for souls
- B. How many will you pray for if you knew God would answer?
- C. Lord, give me 8 billion souls.

II. Missions Giving is the Key to Financial Prosperity

- A. Missions giving comes after tithes
- B. Missions giving has a promised return (2 Corinthians 9)
- C. Bears fruit here and in heavenly accounts
- D. Provides and guarantees a continual increase in giving and receiving
- E. A pastor that does not provoke the church in mission's giving is doing a dis-service to his people.

III. Passages for Missions

- A. Matthew 28:18-20
18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
- B. Hebrews 10:34-36
34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.
35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.
36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.
- C. Luke 19:23
23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?
- D. Matthew 6:20-21
20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:
21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
- E. Philippians 4:17
17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

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F. 2 Corinthians 8 and 9

G. 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

3 And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.

4 And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.

H. regular and commensurate.

I. Mark 12

41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:

44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

J. Luke 21

1 And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury.

2 And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites.

3 And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:

4 For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.

K. Acts 1:8

8 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.

L. Organize and plan missions support according to a program

- Time zones
- Every continent

M. Luke 16

8 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

9 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

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11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

14 And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

N. Colossians 2

18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

IV. Having a Diversified Portfolio of World Evangelism

A. Ecclesiastes 11:1-4

1 Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

2 Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.

3 If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.

4 He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

B. Having fruit that abounds to your account and the accounts of others:

- Invest in your own account
- In the account of the missionary
- In the account of those who are saved when you provoke them to give to missions

V. (1) Go and Do the Work Yourself

A. Occupy

B. Gain by trading

C. Galatians 7:4

D. Matthew 19:21 – Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

E. Multiply talents and pounds

F. Scriptures

G. Isaiah 55:11

H. Be busy for God

I. Evangelism and soul-winning

J. Promoting good works

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VI. (2) Give Your Money to God's Banks

- A. Investment bank
- B. Savings
- C. CD's
- D. Usury
- E. The local churches are God's Banks
 - Tithes
 - Offerings
 - Alms
 - Missions
- F. Support missions' program
- G. Support evangelist
- H. Support pastors and teachers
- I. Support church planting
- J. Donations to preachers

VII. (3) Stocks – Gain a Return Based on the Performance of Another's Business for God

- A. A missionary in the field
- B. Purchasing shares
- C. Typical missionary support or missionary projects
- D. Supporting one work or man monthly
- E. Invest in a single work
- F. Small amounts given by many (multiplied) to support one man and a good work
- G. Dependent upon the performance of the man
- H. Lay hands on no man suddenly

VIII. (4) Bonds – Earn a Reliable Return Based on Backing (Promise) of Jesus Christ

- A. Matthew 25
 - 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
 - 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:
 - 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.
 - 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?
 - 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?
 - 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?
 - 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

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B. Matthew 19

21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

C. Luke 12

33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

D. Matthew 10

41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

E. Inasmuch as ye have done it unto these my brethren ye have done it unto me.

- Hungry
- Strangers
- Naked
- Prison

F. Jesus' brethren – the saints

G. Evangelists

H. Pastors

I. Other works

J. Alms deeds

K. Usury

L. Luke 14

12 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.

13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:

14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

IX. (5) Mutual Funds – A Return From the Work of Many Supporters of Many Workers

A. Peru fund

B. Bolivia fund

C. Pakistan fund

D. Many men supported

E. Many givers, many blessed

F. All have a part in blessing

G. One giver has reward for dozens of works because he participates in the work of many others working together.

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- H. Diversified portfolio
- I. Growth

X. **(6) Flipping**

- A. Support projects that have traction in winning souls.
- B. Baptist authorized labors.
- C. Scripture projects
- D. Other evangelistic projects
- E. Pure water
- F. Campaigns
- G. Tent meetings

XI. **(7) Seed Multiplication**

- A. Scripture work
- B. 2 Corinthians 9:10
10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) See the whole chapter of 2 Corinthians 9
- C. Three-fold multiplication:
 - Bread
 - Seed
 - Fruits of righteousness

XII. **(8) Start Income Producing Works**

- A. Do own business
- B. 1 Thessalonians 4
11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;
12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.
- C. Start churches that support above works
- D. Train and ordain faithful brethren
- E. Seed, sowers, and senders
- F. Keep churches open and operational
- G. Support church planting

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XIII. Practical Exercises:

- A. As a pastor, plan to have a mission program in all these areas.
- B. Personally, work to give to all these programs
- C. Teach and promote these missions programs to the church

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Lesson 11: Addressing a Lack of Funds in a Church

ADDRESSING A LACK OF FUNDS IN A CHURCH

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Serving the Lord Jesus Christ as a pastor for nearly four decades I have seen – not only in our church – but in other churches, a lack of funds to operate a church rightly.

The scriptures give us the reasons for this lack of funds, and they also show us the way of correction. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of every pastor to oversee the financial condition of the church. And he is responsible for making the necessary corrections. We know there are many good men in the pastorate who are not that knowledgeable in money management, but regardless, as pastors, we are responsible.

Being money savvy and being a financial guru is not a requirement to be a good pastor. But good leadership *is* required. A pastor is still required to be responsible fiscally and otherwise, and therefore he should acquire help in whatever area is needed – whether financial or otherwise.

Help to improve one's knowledge can be found in books, classes, and in other people who have learned – especially by experience. It is no shame to admit one does not know everything. It is a shame to operate in self-deception. If a pastor needs help he should seek it quickly before things get too far out of hand.

A pastor should know first that it is not God's will that his church suffers financially. He wants all his children to operate in abundance, not in need (3 John 1:2; Luke 6:38; James 1:5). But most of the time operating in need is the result of the person's own behavior. And we know the first step to correction is confession and repentance of wrong behavior.

Basic Scriptural Precepts on Giving

A pastor does his church a disservice if he does not educate them in right giving. He does not help his members increase in their financial condition if he does not provoke them to proper giving. I have seen this too often: pastors *afraid* to provoke their membership to give.

A pastor may think because his members struggle financially that he is helping them by allowing them to give a little. But this practice only causes a cycle of insufficiency for all involved and continuing this practice only perpetuates this slackness.

A pastor *must* regularly teach the flock the precepts of tithing, giving offerings, and supporting missions. By doing so he helps his flock to increase financially and the church as a result.

Basically, the tithes go to support the pastor, the offerings are used for church expenses, and missions giving is done through faith promise.

A church doing these things will eventually prosper financially. Income for the church comes from God's people *giving* to God's work.

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In a simple statement: “God’s work is to be supported God’s way by God’s people,

Furthermore, the church must be reminded that the pastor is to always be paid first – that he is the church’s first priority for spending.

Basic Financial Precepts

For the scope of this paper, we shall keep these precepts basic and simple.

1. Work equals income. This law is fixed. If one works, he earns. See Proverbs 14:23.
2. Income should always exceed expenses. A pastor needs to be fully aware of the trends of the church’s cash flow. See Proverbs 27:24.
3. Debt is poisonous and will destroy a church’s effectiveness – or maybe the church itself. The church answers to Jesus Christ – it is not to be a servant to a lender. See Proverbs 22:7.
4. Money must be managed honestly, carefully, and honorably. See Proverbs 27:23.
5. It is always wise to have in all accounts a financial reserve in cases of fluctuation of income or downward trends.

Reasons for a Lack of Funds

The reasons for the lack of funds in a church are easily diagnosed. The reasons are usually a combination of some of the following things, as they often go hand-in-hand:

- Too little income – people not giving what they should.
- Too large of spending
- Incorrect spending
- Poor money management
- Violating biblical precepts
- Debt
- Lack of giving
- Breaking scriptural mandates
- Slothfulness
- Not budgeting correctly
- People not taught correctly how to give.

Small Churches

If a church is small – say under twenty people – and the membership consists of average income workers, it is unlikely there would be enough income to operate a church if the tithes are used for building expenses. This is common sense.

If that church meets in a member’s house, twenty members is sufficient for the church to operate. The math is simple: if ten people tithe faithfully, the tithes supply a regular income for the pastor and his family. The small expenses for operating the building are easily covered with offerings.

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If there are under ten tithing families, or if there are ten tithing families and building expenses, it is unreasonable to expect that the people can give enough so there would be no lack. Preaching that these few should give more could likely lead to people not giving cheerfully, but grudgingly. This is not good. Neither is it good if one person does most of the giving. This giver will tend to control the church (1 Samuel 8:3).

So, if we have the case above where there is inequity between the expenses and the giving, the pastor as the leader must analyze where the income is going and decide the next steps. The options can be any of the following:

1. He should teach his people how to increase their income.
2. He may have to delete the building and meet in a house or a low-cost option.
3. The pastor may have to work outside the ministry to give added offerings for the church building.
4. The pastor must look for other opportunities to reduce the church's expenses.

Some may say, "What about getting more members?" Although it is true that adding more members should increase income, I believe looking for income is the wrong motivation for soul-winning, evangelism, and teaching (1 Peter 5:2).

Correcting Too Large of Spending or Incorrect Spending

Downsizing may be necessary if one has too large of an expense budget. A church should *never* borrow to make ends meet. Instead, a pastor should make cuts in spending.

Note: the missions' budget should never be cut. This is why we teach faith-promise support. This method for missions accounting means there is separate account that is used solely for missions' support and giving from that account is designated. The missions' account is totally separate and not used for anything but missionary support.

Budgets are always needed, and these budgets should be reviewed periodically. In this preacher's experience making church budgets based upon portions (percentages) allows for church income flexibility. Portion-based budgeting means there is always some money available.

Two Sure Ways to Have Sufficiency in All Things

Four decades of pastoral learnings can be summarized very simply. If a church lacks sufficiency in finances, and the church is doing its responsibility financially, then the pastor should do two things:

Motivate Faith Promise Missions Giving

Too many good Baptist churches suffer lack because their missions' program is average, not the priority in the church. If anything is to be a priority in the church it should be Great Commission. And the Great Commission is to teach ALL NATIONS.

A world-wide vision for evangelism is accomplished through the support of missions. Here is God's promise in 2 Corinthians 9:5-11:

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5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.

6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

We are not saying that the church can use the missions' fund for operations – that is not right. But members who participate in Faith-Promise giving will see an increase in their family's income and the tithe and offerings should increase commensurately.

The second thing a pastor can do is this:

Labor in the World

The great apostle Paul understood this principle. He exemplified and taught this principle.

Note 1 Thessalonians 4:10-12:

10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

And Acts 20:33-35:

33 I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.

34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.

35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

And 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12:

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

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8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

A Common Mistake

A common error I have seen more than once is where a pastor thinks it is noble to self-sacrifice and so he refrains from receiving his salary. He knows the church has needs and so he thinks he should refrain from taking his portion. The error of this action is obvious: when he does this he violates a commandment of God.

God made it clear that a pastor should be the first partaker of the fruits. He must therefore be the first partaker. God does not want his workers muzzled. What he does with these fruits is his prerogative, but he must take them.

If a man breaks this commandment, he cuts the hand of the Lord short. He is not helping his flock by being disobedient. And God waits until he learns.

Teaching the Flock How to Give Rightly

There are four areas of giving for the Christian: there are tithes, offerings, alms, and missions.

The Tithe

A church that does not practice tithing is disobedient, and the pastor is either afraid, or stingy, or does not care if his people prosper. If one uses the old hollow argument asserting that tithing is of the law and since a believer is not under the law he needs not tithe, he shows his ignorance. And even if this were true, when we are under grace we excel in the spirit of the law – note Romans 13:7-10:

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Or, more clearly, if a believer is following the Spirit of God, he fulfills the law. Note these two passages:

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That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Romans 8:4)

But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law (Galatians 5:18).

So, basically, if tithing was only required by the law, we who walk after the Spirit would fulfill that righteousness. And the basic question is this: Does the Holy Ghost lead a believer to tithe?

As a believer for four decades, I say unequivocally the answer is “YES”! And the Holy Ghost also leads us to give offerings, alms, and give to missions.

But the tithe is not only taught in the law but also before the law and after the law. Note this passage in Hebrews chapter 7 showing Abraham paid tithes before the law was instituted:

6 But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises.

7 And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.

8 And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.

9 And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.

10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

During the law in Leviticus 27:30 we see a fact proclaimed – the tithe IS THE LORD’S”

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’S: it is holy unto the LORD.

Proverbs 3:9-10 gives us a promise:

9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

For this cause most believers who do not tithe tend to have a lack of abundance.

In the New Testament, Jesus said this in Matthew 23:23:

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Just as tithing was a matter of the law, so was judgment, mercy, and faith. And these four matters are still carried forward under the New Testament.

Offerings

Offerings should generally be between 5 -15 percent of a person’s income. Many people give about half of what they tithe added in offerings. Believers who are prosperous will give more in offerings than their tithe. This is because they have learned the grace of giving and know God will bless.

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Alms

Jesus taught on alms giving in Matthew 6:1-4 in his Sermon on the Mount:

1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

Paul collected alms from the churches for the Jews. Notice Acts 24:16-17:

16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

17 Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings.

Missions

As already stated, it is by faith-promise giving to missions that people really increase their financial status. I have experienced this personally and have seen it happen in the lives of believers more times than I can count.

Unfortunately, I have also seen pastors who minimize missions' giving and almost apologetically ask people to consider giving to missions. A though it is a burden he is putting on them instead of showing them the best opportunity to occupy while they live on this earth.

Giving to missions not only helps the missionary, but it increases the income of the giver, it also causes many to pray for the giver, and in gives great rewards in glory. The supporter of missions is a partaker of the work and rewards of the missionaries they support.

Conclusion

The financial condition of the church falls upon the pastor. He should do his due diligence to operate a church rightly in every respect.

If a pastor needs help in the area of finances, he should learn what to do, and get qualified helpers.