

## The Truth About Money

### God's Economic Principles

This month, I'd like to dive into a few economic principles addressed in Scripture.

1) God Owns Everything Seems so obvious, but how often we miss this! If we truly believe that God owns everything and we are His stewards, then why aren't we making all our financial decisions according to God's plan?

I often hear of people saving to buy their "dream home". Now, there is nothing inherently wrong with saving to buy a house. In fact, prudent saving is commended in Scripture. But, I have to wonder if people are doing this as an attempt to gain comfort and happiness here on earth, and are doing so at the expense of other opportunities that God has placed in front of them. Perhaps it's a mission that needs help. Perhaps it's staying in your current neighborhood, right next to the family with the unruly kids that need to see and hear your Christian witness. Meanwhile, God is building your mansion – your eternal dream home – in heaven!

2) Contentment It's not always easy to be content with what we have, or with our station in life, especially when Madison Avenue is constantly telling us how we deserve much more. In 1 Timothy 6:6, Paul tells us that Godliness with contentment is great gain. Following God's leading, and being content in that life in Christ, knowing He will provide you whatever you need, will bring you great gain. Will that gain be here on earth, or heaven, or both? Who knows? What is certain is our gain of eternal life.

To be living in God's will, and be content, we need to be constantly asking ourselves these questions: Am I honoring God with my lifestyle? How much is enough? And, ask God regularly: How do you want me to live?

3) Debt Simply put, scripture teaches that debt is not wise. There are some real problems with using debt to fund purchases. First, it presumes that you will have the ability to repay the debt in the future, when in reality nobody knows what the future holds. Second, it creates an obligation to the lender, which limits your ability to do other things with that money – often for many years. And third, debt can be so easily misused. It's easier to spend more, often beyond our means to repay (see the current housing crisis for a prime example).

I wonder - what it would be like if God's people really did handle their money according to God's Word? There would no doubt be less tension in households, fewer divorces. Churches and missions would have the funds necessary to truly be salt and light in this world, and carry out the Great Commission. There would be no need for social programs, no people starving. But, best of all, Christians everywhere would be following their Savior and living according to His will.

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