

# You 3.0 How to Manage Money Biblically

The Bible has more than 2300 verses that relate to money and possessions. What would God say about how you manage what is in your wallet?

## Scripture: Luke 12:13-21

v. 15 *Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."*

Be on your guard = constant vigilance required.

Greed = the desire to have more.

Abundance = over and above what we need.

<sup>16</sup> *And he told them [the crowd] this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. <sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'*

<sup>18</sup> *"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. <sup>19</sup> And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"*

<sup>20</sup> *"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'*

<sup>21</sup> *"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*

## Why is the rich farmer in trouble with God?

- He never looks beyond himself.
- He never looks above himself.

Fool = the person who acts without regard to God.

- He never looks beyond this life.

## **What do we need?**

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**Reality: “What we need is a moving target.”**

## **Five Money Choices You Need to Make**

1. Choose to be careful.

Your attitude about money and the way you use it is one of the most important indicators of your spiritual life.

2. Choose to be thankful.

Greed tends to be bigger if we are spending too much time focusing on what we don't have.

3. Choose restraint.

Make decisions with tomorrow in mind.

4. Choose generosity.

A great antidote to greed is to deliberately give.

5. Choose wisdom.

The tithe is 10% of your income given through the church.  
(Malachi 3:10)

## **So What?**

What is your next step?

Today's Scripture is from The New International Version  
John Bray, December 10 & 11, 2011

**Want to hear this again?**

The sermon is posted on the church web site by Monday evening.

[www.heritageqc.com](http://www.heritageqc.com) Hit "**Watch sermon on-line**"

To dig deeper, visit John's blog at [www.NowWhatJohn.com](http://www.NowWhatJohn.com)

## Now What? Resources for Reflection & Growth

What is your favorite Christmas movie? Why is it the one you return to again and again?

The name “Scrooge” has a negative connotation. What characteristics about this Dicken’s creation make him so appalling? Make a list.

How are you most like and/or most unlike Ebenezer Scrooge?

Read Luke 12:15

- In response to a question from one person, Jesus addressed the whole crowd. Why do you think he did that?
- If Jesus were physically present to discuss this teaching with us, what things in our culture do you think he would connect to the issue of greed? What would he be concerned about?
- What are some practical ideas you could come up with to help you “be on guard” against greed? Why do you think we so often fail to keep our guard up?

John said, “What we *need* is a moving target.” What do you think he meant by that? Why do you think our sense of what we need always seems to grow? In the last 50 years we live in bigger houses, drive cars with more features, eat more food...our appetites increase. Why?

Let’s consider a few of the scriptures connected to greed. As you read them, make some notes. What do you need to avoid? What risks are there? How might these show up in today’s world? Don’t just seek to learn what the Bible says; look to see what it might mean to you and how it might apply.

- Ephesians 5:5
- Colossians 3:5-6
- Psalm 39:6-7
- 1 Timothy 6:10
- Proverbs 28:20-22
- 2 Timothy 3:1-5
- Ecclesiastes 5:10

Review the Five Money Choices John suggested could be an antidote to greed (see page 2 of the note guide).

1. How would practicing each one of these help you deal with money more biblically?
2. Which one do you need to focus the most on right now?

Don’t forget last week’s commitment to invite someone to Christmas services! Spend some time praying for that person right now.