

Week 9

XXXIII. Review

A. Homework

B. Budget Principles

1. Budget...just the spending plan for your household
2. Know where you are starting from and where you are going
3. Adjust your spending to meet your income
4. Plan for the (Un)Expected
5. Pay Yourself not somebody else – Debt and Taxes
6. Increase Your disposable income
7. You are to care for your immediate and extended family
 - a. We need to labor and exercise self control to provide for our immediate family
 - b. We ought to plan and prepare for the eventuality of caring for extended family
 - c. Both of these mean we need to spend less on ourselves and forego luxury
 - d. Although commanded this is also an area of wisdom...determine the level of support that you will provide to both immediate and extended family

C. Biblical Principles

1. We are Stewards because God owns it all...we own nothing (Psalm 24:1)
2. Money in and of itself is morally neutral...it is what we do with it that makes it good or bad (Hebrews 13:5)
3. Money is an excellent indicator of our heart...both good and bad (Mt 6:21)
4. The believer is to be self-controlled (Titus 2:12)
5. Saving and planning are wise and a MODERATE priority with God (Proverbs 21:20)
6. Paying our taxes is a HIGH priority with God (Romans 13:1-7)
7. Repaying our Debts is a HIGH priority with God (Psalm 37:21)
8. Repaying our Debts more quickly than required is a MODERATE priority with God
9. Work is a Blessing (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20)
10. Spending money on living is a HIGH and LOW priority with God

- a. Providing the basics of food and covering are a HIGH priority with God
(2 Thessalonians 3:7-8)
- b. Providing for our extended family is a HIGH priority with God
(1 Timothy 5:8)
- c. Everything else we spend on to support our lifestyle is a LOW priority with God, not a requirement for our life/contentment and left to wisdom.

XXXIV. **Biblical Principle – God’s Priorities For Our Resources Part 4 – Giving and Investing**

A. Giving is recognized throughout the Bible

1. In the Old Testament we see both freewill and required giving
2. We see giving mentioned before the Law of Moses was given (freewill)
(Abraham - Genesis 14:18-20; Jacob - Genesis 28:20-22)
3. We see giving codified in the Law of Moses (freewill and required)
(Exodus 25:1-6; Leviticus 19:9, 27:30-33; Numbers 18:12, 21; Deuteronomy 14:22-29; Nehemiah 10:32-39)
4. In the New Testament we see both required and freewill giving
5. We see Jesus reference tithing and giving during His lifetime
(Matthew 23:23; Luke 6:38, 11:42, 20:25)
6. We see Luke describe giving in Acts
(Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-37)
7. We see Paul reference it as part of his ministry as a means to care for other believers (Romans 15:25-27; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 11:8-9; Philippians 4:15-16; 1 Tim 6:18)

B. Giving is a HIGH priority with God

Luke 6:38 *“Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”*

C. Questions that often surround giving

1. What about Tithing? Or in other words “How much are we to give?”

- a. Tithing is covered in great detail in the Valley Bible Church position paper Tithing^[2] and in MacArthur's book *Giving God's Way*^[3]
 - b. I will summarize quickly here
 - i. The word tithe means literally one tenth or a tenth part
 - ii. Tithing is referred to in the Old Testament, the Gospels and once in Hebrews
 - iii. Prior to the Law when Abraham and Jacob tithe it is freewill giving
 - iv. Under the Law tithing becomes required as we see in the Old Testament and the Gospels
 - v. Under the Law tithing was the taxation system used to support the Levites, the poor and festivals.
 - vi. After the Law was fulfilled in Christ tithing is never required or encouraged
 - c. In the New Testament, after the Law, freewill giving is the only type mentioned and it is never dictated how much we are to give
 - i. Therefore as believers in Christ we are free in the amount that we choose to give
 - ii. Since giving is commanded (Luke 6:38) I do not believe that giving nothing is an option
 - iii. As you give, the amount is not the measure but rather the attitude
 - iv. The New Testament gives lots of indication of what proper giving looks like
2. "How are we to give?" or "What is the correct attitude in our giving?"
- a. Let's take a look at 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

"Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
 - b. We are to give Purposefully
 - i. This indicates we have thought about and determined what we will give
 - ii. It is not just done willy nilly but with careful consideration

- c. We are to give Voluntarily
 - i. Not under compulsion
 - ii. It is up to us...we are to decide
 - iii. We see this with the Macedonians “giving of their own accord” in 2 Corinthians 8:3
- d. We are to give Cheerfully
 - i. We are not to give grudgingly
 - ii. Giving as we purpose and of our own accord can be done with great joy or cheer
 - iii. We know that we are using God’s resources to accomplish his purposes
- e. We are to give Generously
 - i. We are to sow bountifully
 - ii. We also see that the “rich” are to be “generous and ready to share” (1 Timothy 6:18)
- f. Now let’s look at 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper...”
- g. We are to give Proportionally
 - i. Each is to give according to their prosperity
 - ii. The amount is not important and I would suggest the percentage is not important
 - iii. Each should give as God has blessed them
 - iv. We may want to give additionally as we have windfalls
- h. We are to give Regularly
 - i. Note the example given to set aside money on the first day of the week
 - ii. We should not be haphazard in our giving habits but again purposeful
 - iii. Pick a time interval on which you would like to give and then do it regularly
- i. We are to give Anonymously

- i. We are not to give to be noticed by men
Matthew 6:2-4 “So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.
- ii. We want our reward to be eternal and to be one who receives the commendation “Well done my good and faithful servant”
- j. Are we to give Sacrificially?
 - i. How do we define sacrificial giving?
It is giving that is done at great personal cost to the giver
 - ii. We see this type of giving in the example of the Macedonian believers in their support of churches in other areas
2 Corinthians 8:3 “For I testify that according to their ability, **and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord**”
 - iii. We also see it in the story of the widow in the temple
Mark 12:43-44 Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, **but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.**”
 - iv. In these two examples it seems that they gave at the potential cost of not having food or covering
 - v. The Macedonians gave beyond what they were able
 - vi. The widow gave of her livelihood...all she had to live on
 - vii. Both were obviously noteworthy
 - viii. Is this the norm however?
 - ix. At a level, all giving costs us something...It is money that we no longer have to spend on ourselves

- x. But to give of our livelihood would seem to be in opposition to the other principles that we have been looking at (saving, planning, paying our taxes, caring for ourselves and our families)
 - xi. Therefore I am of the opinion that this is not normative giving but **gifted** giving
 - xii. In His providence God through the Spirit may move us to give in this way
 - k. All this to say...more important than the amount that we give is the attitude with which we give whatever amount we end up purposing
 - l. This may very well lead us to give more than 10% as we desire to serve God and to see his purposes fulfilled through our giving
3. Why are we to give?
- a. First off, Does God need our money?
 - b. No because He already owns everything (Psalm 24:1)
Haggai 2:8 “The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,’ declares the LORD of hosts.”
 - c. Remember that money can be a test...a test of our hearts and character
 - d. It is another demonstration of obedience and care for others
 - e. As stewards we are to be accomplishing God’s purposes with his resources
 - f. Following are a couple of specific reasons that we are to give:
 - g. We are to care for the poor...those who don’t have enough food or covering
 - i. One of the things that James, Peter and John passed along to Paul was that he was to remember the poor
Galatians 2:10 “They only asked us to remember the poor—the very thing I also was eager to do.”
 - ii. We see people respond to the need of the church in Acts
Acts 2:45 “and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.”
Acts 4:34-35 “For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales and lay them at the apostles’ feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.”

iii. We are to care for believers in this way

Romans 15:26 *“For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.”*

James 2:15-16 *“If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?”*

iv. We are to care for all men

Galatians 6:10 *“So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”*

h. We are to support those who feed us spiritually

i. Galatians 6:6 *“The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him.”*

ii. 1 Timothy 5:17-18 *“The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING,” and “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”*

iii. We see Paul apply this to himself in 1 Corinthians 9:4-14

4. We are to give to care for the poor and to support those who watch over and teach us spiritually so that they may be more productive

D. God expects us to “invest” what we have been given

1. What I mean by this is that we are to use what we have to meet God’s priorities

a. This applies to everything that God has given

i. Money

ii. Possessions

iii. Time

iv. Abilities

v. Spiritual Gifts

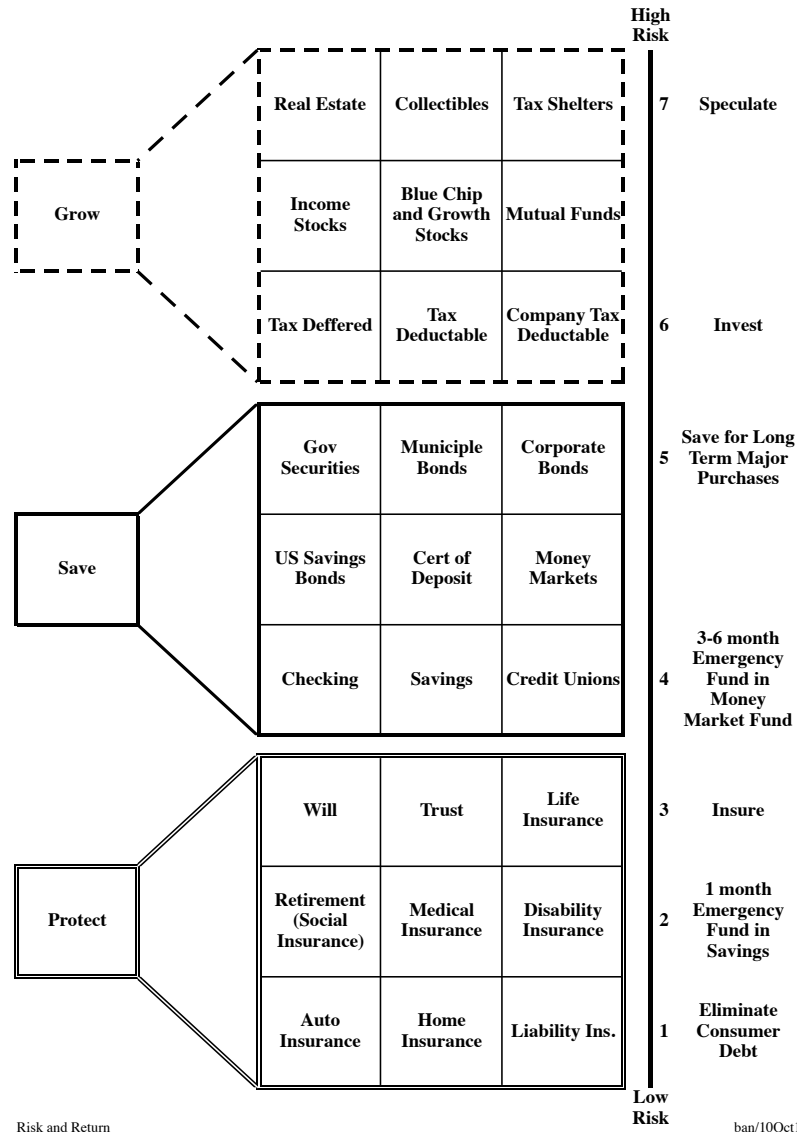
b. We may increase or diminish what we have in our possession at any given time to work toward achieving God’s priorities

2. Jesus commanded us to give and there was the expectation of a return on investment
Luke 6:38 “Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”
3. Sometimes there is return because we give something up
Mark 10:28-30 “Peter began to say to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You.” Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.”
4. A command to the rich
1 Timothy 6:18-19 “Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”
5. A reminder to those who are giving
2 Corinthians 9:6 “Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”
6. We are even to invest things other than possessions
1 Peter 4:10 “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”
7. The amount is not important, it is faithfulness that counts
 - a. Remember the parable of the talents Matthew 25:14-30
 - b. The slave with 5 talents and the slave with 2 talents are given the same praise
“Well done, good and faithful servant!”
 - c. The slave with 1 talent who didn’t even work to earn interest...
“You wicked, lazy servant!”
8. Remember this is a Long Term investment plan
 - a. *1 Timothy 6:19 “storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”*

- b. ^{Matthew 6:20} *“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...”*
- 9. We need to keep in mind that giving to God’s work is an investment and a HIGH priority with God

XXXV. Budgeting Principle – Invest

- A. We are to invest
 - 1. We invest by giving...
 - a. We do this to care for others
 - b. Some people invest so that they can give more (this takes real discipline)
 - 2. We invest to prepare for future needs
 - a. Care for extended family
 - b. Provide for our own care
 - c. Education
 - d. Retirement?
- B. As You Invest...
 - 1. Be wise
 - a. Don’t invest in things you don’t understand (Proverbs 24:3-4)
 - b. Don’t invest more than you can afford to lose (Ecclesiastes 5:14)
 - c. Don’t be in a hurry (Proverbs 21:5)
 - 2. Seek wise counsel
 - a. Be informed...READ
 - b. If you don’t have a lot of time on your hands seek professional help
 - 3. Understand where you are in life
 - a. What is your investment time horizon?...Investing when you are 25 will probably look different than when you are 52, 67 or 85
 - 4. Evaluate the Risks and Returns
 - a. Determine beforehand what your risk tolerance is
 - b. What can you afford to lose or will you have time to build it back before you need it?



- c. The above chart shows a progression of “investment” potentials
 - d. The risk of losing money climbs as you move up the chart but the potential returns are greater
 - e. The intent here is that as you build your portfolio you would work on protection first, then to save and then to grow
 - f. Work on the basics or foundation before we get more complex and riskier
5. Diversify
- Ecclesiastes 11:2 *“Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth.”*
- a. Ever heard the phrase “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.”?

- b. Don't put all of your investments into one basket
- c. Consider spreading between types and risk level
- d. Spread them out so that you are less exposed to any one thing changing

C. Investments

1. First Things First
 - a. Establish an Emergency Fund
 - b. Pay off all consumer debt
 - c. This is an investment in that there is greater return to you now and in the future
 - d. Want to earn x% right away? Stop paying someone x% to use their money
2. Pay off your home
 - a. Pay off the mortgage early
 - b. Then start socking that monthly payment away once it is paid off
 - c. You can build more by doing this than by just investing any additional that you would pay toward your mortgage
3. Cash Equivalents
 - a. Easily turned into cash at little or no cost
 - b. Savings, Checking, Money Market, Certificates of deposit
 - c. If in a bank or credit union guaranteed through FDIC/NCUA up to \$250,000 institution per person
4. Retirement Accounts
 - a. IRA's
 - b. 401(k), 403(b)
5. Mutual Funds
 - a. At a level this is a diversification plan
 - b. A grouping of stocks or bonds, etc.
 - c. A mutual fund will allow you to broadly invest in about any sector
 - d. They can be set up to grow or provide income
6. Rental Properties
 - a. The goal here is to earn enough to cover the costs
 - b. The larger return comes when the property is paid off or sold
7. Stocks

- a. Part ownership of a company
 - b. Can pay dividends or be set up for growth
 - c. Large Cap, Mid Cap, Small Cap are the size of the companies in market capitalization (# of stocks * price)
8. Bonds
- a. Investment in other peoples debt
 - b. Corporate, Municipal, Government
 - c. Simply put they agree to pay you a return to borrow your money for a set duration
9. Other Stuff that begins to look like speculation
- a. Collectibles
 - b. Real Estate

XXXVI. Homework

A. Memory Verses

1. Acts 20:35b “*..He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”*
2. 1 Timothy 5:8 “*But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”*
3. Colossians 3:23 “*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men”*
4. Psalm 37:21 “*The wicked borrows and does not pay back, But the righteous is gracious and gives.”*
5. Proverbs 21:20 “*There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, But a foolish man swallows it up.”*
6. Titus 2:12 “*...instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,”*
7. Matthew 6:21 “*for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*
8. Hebrews 13:5 “*Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, ‘I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,’”*
9. Psalm 24:1 “*The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.”*

References

1. Unless otherwise indicated all scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible (NASB), 1995
2. Tithing: A Valley Bible Position Paper
(<http://www.valleybible.net/PositionPapers/Tithing.pdf>)
3. **John F. MacArthur, Jr.**, *Giving: God's Way* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1986)
4. **Randy Alcorn**, *The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2001)
5. **John MacArthur**, *Whose Money Is It Anyway?: A Biblical Guide to Using God's Wealth* (Nashville, TN: Word, 2000)
6. **Larry Burkett**, *Investing For The Future* (Colorado Springs, CO: ChariotVictor, 1997)
7. **Eric Tyson**, *Personal Finance for Dummies, 2nd Edition* (Foster City, CA; IDG, 1996)