

**Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for October 21, 2007**

**The Bible and Personal Finances
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God owns everything and we are only stewards of whatever God has entrusted to us (Deuteronomy 10:14; Psalm 24:1).

It is more blessed to save than to borrow (Deuteronomy 15:6; 28:12).

It is more blessed to give than receive (Acts 20:35).

How can we, based on the Scriptures, know how much to give?

In light of the exceeding blessedness of giving we should cheerfully and generously give as the Lord has prospered us.

How can we, based on the Scriptures, know where to give?

We need to give our money where we believe it will accomplish the most good as possible (1 Timothy 6:17-18).

The use of our material wealth to accomplish the most good as possible begins with us making sure that the needs of three different groups are met.

In seeking to use our material wealth to accomplish the most good as possible we must make sure that the needs of our neighbors are met (Luke 10:25-37).

Based on the words of Christ in Luke 10:30-37 our neighbor is any person outside of our family that God, in His providence, brings across our path.

Though we are responsible to meet the basic needs of those that God providentially brings across our path, this does not include freeloaders (2 Thessalonians 3:6-10).

In seeking to use our material wealth in order to accomplish the most good as possible we must make sure that the needs of our family are met.

The Bible makes it very clear that if we fail to provide for the basic needs of our biological family we have failed to do what is right (1 Timothy 5:8).

The Bible makes it very clear that if we fail to provide for the basic needs of our spiritual family we have failed to do what is right (James 2:14-17).

In seeking to use our material wealth in order to accomplish the most good as possible we must make sure that the needs of our ministers and their ministries are met (1 Corinthians 9:11,14; 1 Timothy 5:17-18).

May God give us the grace to accomplish as much good as we can with the material wealth He has entrusted to us.