

## THE CHRISTIAN AND MONEY PT. 1

August 17, 2014 AM

### Matthew 16:24-26

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “**If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.**”

25 **For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**

26 **For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?**

- *At the new birth, the fundamental motivation of life completely changes. One no longer lives to please and serve self, but to please and serve God.*
- *Life, purpose and fulfillment is no longer found in the world, but found exclusively in surrender to Jesus Christ.*
- *Our relationship to money, how we obtain and use it, is included in this life transformation.*

### Luke 12:13-21

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

14 But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?”

15 And he said to them, “**Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**”

16 And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully,

17 and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’

18 And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”

20 But God said to him, ‘**Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?**’

21 **So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.**”

- *Through regeneration and self-denial, life, happiness and security is no longer found in what we possess, either monetarily or materially.*
- *Through regeneration and self-denial, life, happiness and security is found in being rich towards God meaning that our money, time and energy is invested in God, not this world.*

### Deuteronomy 8:11–18

11 “Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today,

12 lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them,

13 and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied,

14 **then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,**

15 who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock,

16 who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end.

17 **Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.'**

18 **You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm (*qum - to arise, stand up, accomplish, establish, fulfill*) his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.**

- **The deceitfulness of prosperity says:**

- *"my power has gotten me this wealth"*
- *"this wealth is for my self-gratification, enjoyment and security"*

### **Haggai 1:1-15**

1 In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest:

2 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: **These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.**"

3 Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet,

4 **"Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?"**

5 Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: **Consider your ways.**

6 **You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.**

7 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: **Consider your ways.**

8 **Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord.**

9 **You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.**

10 **Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce.**

11 **And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors."**

12 **Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him. **And the people feared the Lord.****

13 Then Haggai, the messenger of the Lord, spoke to the people with the Lord's message, **"I am with you, declares the Lord."**

14 And the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. **And they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God,**

15 on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

- *When our life and resources are spent, consumed or obsessed with building our personal lives, comfort, security and wealth, rather than building the Kingdom of God, then what we have and what we work so hard to obtain will never be enough.*
- *God does not want us to neglect our homes and families, but proper priority is to be invested into building the Kingdom of God.*

### **Haggai 2:1-9**

1 In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet,

2 “Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say,

3 **‘Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes?’**

4 **Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the Lord. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the Lord. Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts, according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not.**

6 For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land.

7 And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts.

8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts.

9 **The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.’**

- *How glorious a ministry appears outwardly to man is meaningless to God. All that matters, and what brings true beauty and glory, is whether or not God is residing within.*

## **THE CHRISTIAN’S FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1. TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

#### **Malachi 3:7-12**

7 From the days of your fathers **you have turned aside from my statutes** and **have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,** says the Lord of hosts. But you say, **‘How shall we return?’**

8 Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions.

9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.

10 **BRING THE FULL TITHE INTO THE STOREHOUSE**, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

11 I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts.

12 Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

## 2. PROVIDE FOR FAMILY

### 2 Thessalonians 3:10–12

10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: **If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat**.

11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies.

12 **Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living**.

### 1 Timothy 5:8

**"But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."**

## 3. DISTRIBUTE TO THE NEEDY

### Acts 4:32–37

32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold

35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,

37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

### 2 Corinthians 8:1–16

1 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,

2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.