

# **BIBLICAL ECONOMICS INTRODUCTION**

## **THE MINISTRY AND ITS FINANCIAL INTEGRITY, [2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15](#)**

### **The Biblical View of Money**

If you pursue money instead of excellency before God, instead of like it says in [Colossians](#) and [Ephesians](#), working, doing not eye service but working as unto the Lord. If you do anything other than work to honor the Lord, if you just work for the buck, that's idolatry. That's the love of money. And you can love it and have a lot of it and you can love it and have none of it. But when you derive your sense of security from your money rather than from your God, that's idolatry.

When you derive your sense of satisfaction from money rather than God, that's idolatry. When you derive your personal joy from your possessions rather than your relationship to God, that's idolatry. And you don't want to pursue that. Godliness is characterized by a pursuit of God, not of money, and being content with what you have. Paul said again to Timothy, **"You brought nothing into the world, you certainly can't carry anything out."**

**1 Timothy 6:7 (NASB)**

**<sup>7</sup>"For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either."**

You never saw a hearse pulling a U-Haul. Nothing goes. You have what you have and you leave it all here and the only thing that's going to be there to welcome you is what you sowed in heaven.

If you love money, you'll find all kinds of problems. [First Timothy 6:9](#) says, **"They that will be rich,"** you just pursue money, pursue money, pursue money, **"fall into temptation and a snare, into many foolish and hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition or loss."**

**1 Timothy 6:9 (NASB)**

**<sup>9</sup>"But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction."**

That's some serious language. I mean, serious language, temptation, snare, foolish, hurtful lusts drown you in destruction and loss. Jesus said, **"You can't serve God and money."**

**Matthew 6:24 (NASB)**

**<sup>24</sup>"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."**

On the other hand, Jesus said, “**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and everything else shall be added.**”

**Matthew 6:33 (NASB)**

**<sup>33</sup> “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”**

Just pour your life into the things that honor God, work to the glory of Christ whatever you do and let the money come from God as He purposes to give it. Let him decide whether you should have \$1 million or not. That’s up to Him. You just give your best. Set your heart on glorifying God, and if He makes you rich that’s His choice. And most really rich people would tell you it’s a lot harder than being poor. Don’t set your heart on money.

For money, **Achan** brought defeat on Israel’s army and death to himself and his family.

For, money **Balaam** sinned and tried to curse God’s own people.

For money, **Delilah** betrayed Samson, and caused the slaughter of thousands.

For money, **Ananias** and **Sapphira** became the first hypocrites in the church and God executed them there.

And for money, **Judas** sold Jesus. Not very good company, is it?

Money lovers aren’t a very nice crowd. And when you start to pursue money, you’re going to forget God.

Solomon was the author of most of the **Proverbs**. I’ll close with this. But [chapter 30](#) was written by a different person. It was written by **Agur, A-G-U-R**, and **Agur** wrote it when he was watching Solomon. [Proverbs 30](#) is very interesting.

**Proverbs 30:1-3 (NASB)**

**<sup>1</sup> “The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, the oracle. The man declares to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal:**

**<sup>2</sup> Surely I am more stupid than any man, And I do not have the understanding of a man.**

**<sup>3</sup> Neither have I learned wisdom, Nor do I have the knowledge of the Holy One.”**

Solomon was really, really rich. I mean rich beyond description, rich beyond belief. But he got trapped in his riches and he wanted more and he wanted more and he wanted more, and he kept marrying foreign wives. Did you ever wonder why?

You say, “You know, this is ridiculous, nine hundred women? I mean, really, most of us have one wife and it’s plenty for us to cope with. Well, I mean, and even if a guy had

a major lust problem, thirty or forty might do. What in the world? Hundreds upon hundreds upon...”

Look, you missed the whole point. It had nothing to do with some physical desire. He married them because they brought with them a portion of their national treasuries. It was the money, not the girl. I bet it got to the point where he never even checked out what she looked like. When you start getting up in the multiples of hundreds, who cares? She’s bringing part of the country’s treasury.

He was building a political empire. And what he wanted was not the women; he wanted more and more treasury. And when you look at hundreds and hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of wives, you get a little idea of how greedy the man was. And so, in his greed he brought all these wives in with all their treasure and they brought something else besides their money. What else did they bring? They brought their gods and they led Israel into idolatry and Solomon fouled up his own life and split the Kingdom.

Now Agur was watching that happen. And as he was watching that happen he prayed the prayer in [Proverbs 30 verse 8](#). This was his prayer. He saw what riches did to Solomon, so he said, **“Give me neither poverty nor riches, feed me with the food that is my portion.”**

**Proverbs 30:8 (NASB)**

**<sup>8</sup>“Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion.”**

God, I don’t want any more than You want me to have. You determine it and You give me what You want me to have. I don’t want to love money; I don’t want to become greedy. Why?

Says Agur:

**Proverbs 30:9 (NASB)**

**<sup>9</sup>“That I not be full and deny *You* and say, “Who is the LORD?” Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.”**

If I have too much, I won’t need You. If I don’t have enough, I’ll steal. So, God, You give me my portion. Don’t give me too much so that I worship my wealth instead of You and become self-sufficient. And don’t give me too little so I steal and dishonor Your name. In either case, love of money can set God aside. So what we want to do is “I’ll give my life to Christ, I’ll serve God with all my heart. I’ll work as hard as I can. And I’ll let God give me what He chooses to give me. And if He gives me more than I need, then I’ll have to be a steward of that.”

So what God chooses to give you, you become a steward of. But you don’t love it. In either case, you love God, serve God, honor God, glorify God and let Him give you what He chooses and you use it to express your love for Him. Well, that’s a start. And we’ll finish up this introductory message in the next several weeks. Let’s pray.

Father, we thank You for the fact that the Word of God which reveals Your own mind to us and those things which You require of us is so clear on these matters. And it starts in the heart; it starts with the attitude. We have to realize that there is a morality which money manifests and there is a love of money which causes us to forget You. Lord, help us to deal with the heart attitude as we start out to build a foundation for Christian giving. We thank You, Lord, that Your Spirit leads us and guides us in this through the Word.

And as we study this tremendous section and all of the truths that are herein, we pray that You might free us so that we become like the Macedonians and are pleading for opportunities to give because we understand the eternal blessing and the temporal joy that comes in response. Thank You, Lord, for showing us the path to real riches through our own giving. And we are so anxious to walk that path, as You instruct us in the days ahead, that our Savior may be glorified, whose name we bear and whom we serve and in whose name we pray. Amen.