

REALIGN YOUR FINANCES

NICKELS AND DIMES

If someone were to steal your checkbook, what would it say about you?

Pastor Christ made the statement “What you don’t master will master you.” What did he mean by that?

How can your money be in control of you?

What does giving to the church say about you? Likewise, what does it say about you if you don’t give to the church?

Do you think you are in control of your money or is it in control of you?

Signs that Money is Controlling You

- You _____ about having enough money.
- You often _____ you could buy more things.
- Your only goal in life is to _____, but you have no realistic plan.
- You _____ to feel better.
- You _____ for your financial problems (government, spouse).
- You judge people based on the _____ they have.
- You take unnecessary financial _____ and lose.
- _____ controls your mood.

Matthew 6:24—No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Jesus gave these words of caution where money was concerned. A good portion of His teaching was a warning against the love of money.

What did Jesus say in Matthew 6 about money?

Why did Jesus speak so forward about money in a person's life?

Pastor Chris mentioned that it is a core value of CPC that we lead with _____
_____.

This means that we believe we have been blessed in order that we might be a blessing to the world around us.

Can you tell the group a time when you blessed someone in need and how it made it feel afterward?

How will the world be blessed through our MAD Offering that will be taken next week?

Giving our tithes and offerings is called worship, but anytime we give to others, we are giving to God. That makes it an act of _____ because it is a _____ matter between you and God.

WHAT TO INVEST IN

1 Corinthians 10:31—So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Proverbs 16:8—Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.

Matthew 25:21—His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

What do these three verses say to you regarding money?

Over and over, the Scriptures tell us to be careful to worship _____ your wealth, but don't worship _____ wealth.

Proverbs 6:6-8—Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.”

What lesson are we to get from the ant?

Why do you think humans often have to have someone else to tell and remind them to save for the future?

Philippians 4:6—Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

How might this verse be of help for people who are having trouble getting their finances in sync with God's desires for their money?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

DEVELOP A PLAN TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR MONEY

Perhaps you are doing quite well in handling your money. You may even give to the church on a regular basis. If so, that's great! But God blesses us the purpose of us to be a blessing to more people around us. Do you want to live a life of "excessive generosity?" Let's walk through a plan:

If you are married, you and your spouse need to do this together. You need to agree on what is important and where your money should go. Agree on what you would like your bank account to say about you. Remember, this is only a test—an idea of what your bank account could look like.

Total up your income. \$ _____
This is your monthly amount that you have to use.

Minus your tithe (10% to the Kingdom). \$ _____
As a Christian, it is your duty to prioritize tithing.
Even if you don't do it right now, try it for this exercise.

Saving for your future (10% for the future). \$ _____

Minus your monthly total bills. \$ _____
Include house, car, credit cards, phone, electric/gas, water, sewage, insurance, etc.

Minus your monthly food amount. \$ _____

Minus your monthly total bills. \$ _____

How much money do you have left over? \$ _____

Does the plan work for you? If not, where is your account “too heavy.”

If you can't pay your full tithe right now, how much are you willing to give toward the tithe?

What Should Determine the Amount We Give?

When someone dictates to you how much to give, your heart is cut out of the gift. Such giving is a matter of works, not grace. On the other hand, discipline helps us with what we know to be right. Choosing a standard of giving can help us do what we believe in our hearts to be right, even if our temporary feelings should waver. The Bible talks about 10%, and it should be our goal, but you have to give your best—not what's leftover—but the very best you can give. This is our worship!

PRAYER TIME

- If you have a job, a means to make money, begin to praise God for providing for you what you have.
- Ask God to show you how you can be a blessing to others through your giving.
- Pray specifically for the MAD Offering and that CPC might reach its goal. Ask God how much He is wanting you to give.
- Pray for those in your group, in your family, or others who do not have jobs, can't make ends meet, etc. Pray that God will do a real blessing in their life and put their bank account in line with His plan.