

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP  
 119<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EAST TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
 JEFFREY N. LEATH, PRESIDING BISHOP  
 SUSAN J. LEATH, MD; SUPERVISOR, WOMEN’S MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
 REVEREND DR. EVA SETTLES; HOST PRESIDING ELDER, CHATTANOOGA-KNOXVILLE  
 DISTRICT  
 REVEREND DR. TERENCE L. MAYES, SR.; ASSOCIATE PRESIDING ELDER, FAYETTEVILLE-  
 PULASKI DISTRICT  
 REVEREND DR. PEDRO BASDEN, HOST PASTOR

Most people in the world face at least one of three money problems:

1. You don’t have enough money to pay for everything you want.
2. You may not even have enough money to pay for everything you need.
3. Your monetary predicament worries you.

People worry about money problems because they are personal. For many people, money has become a measure of success.

As Christian stewards, we owe it to God to gain a proper perspective concerning money. The following table gives us an illustration concerning God’s perspective:

| <b>GOD’S MIND-SET</b>   | <b>WORLD’S MIND-SET</b>                            |
|---|--|
| <p><b>To give you what you need.</b><br/>           (Matthew 6:31-33) “Do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.”</p> | <p><b>To get what you want.</b></p>                |
| <p><b>To be used only in trustworthy ways.</b><br/>           (Luke 16:10-11) “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?”</p>                                 | <p><b>To be used in whatever way you wish.</b></p> |
| <p><b>To gather eternal treasures.</b><br/>           (Matthew 6:19-20) “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal”</p>                                  | <p><b>To gain temporary treasures.</b></p>         |
| <p><b>To be used to bless the soul.</b><br/>           (Mark 8:36-37) “What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or</p>  | <p><b>To be valued above the soul.</b></p>         |

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| what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”  |  |
| <b>To trust in the power of God.</b><br>(Psalm 20:7) “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God”   | <b>To trust in the power of possessions.</b>   |
| <b>To demonstrate the Lord’s power to provide.</b><br>(Malachi 3:10)“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house Test me in this says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it”   | <b>To obtain personal power through possessions.</b>   |
| <b>To sacrificially share in God’s kingdom.</b><br>(2 Corinthians 8:3-5) “ they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord and they by the will of God also to us” | <b>To be used in whatever way you wish.</b><br><b>To selfishly build a personal kingdom.</b> |
| <b>To look to God to supply all your needs.</b><br>(Philippians 4:19) “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus”   | <b>To supply all of your needs apart from God.</b>   |

If we adopt God’s perspective, plan ahead, cut back on spending, and make and follow a budget we will be on the road to good Christian stewardship.

Humbly Submitted,

The Committee on Stewardship and Tithing  
 The Reverends Coleman March, Andrea Brabson, Ernest Latham and Judge John McClarty,  
 Sisters JoAnne Gaunt, Laverne Cook, and Renee McClure

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