

FINANCIAL HEALTH WELLNESS WHOLENESS

DIVINE OWNERSHIP

SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY Monday, September 6, 2021
[Psalm 24:1](#); [Haggai 2:8](#)

STUDY & REFLECTION

Let's admit that it would be difficult to find a Bible believing Christian to disagree that the God that we serve, in specific, the Lord Jesus Christ, is our Savior and Lord. Genuine children of God are people seeking to serve and please God in all aspects of their lives.

However it is not a stretch to say that people, even Christians "get funny, when you talk about money!" (Finances)

As we begin our study of **financial health, wellness, and wholeness**, we must start with a foundational principle, that should be applied to Every Aspect of our living. It is one that will help us to serve and please God in our lives on this earth. The foundational principle is this, **GOD IS THE ONLY OWNER! EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE, BELONGS TO HIM.**

Of course this sounds simple, but it is only simply in our thinking. Lets see if it's simple in its application. Note the scripture:

The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. (KJV)

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; (NIV)

In the passage in Haggai, the Lord is specific....All the silver and the gold belongs to Me declares Jehovah.

This is one of those all-encompassing principles. There are no exceptions. Our God is the Creator. He made and owns the world. He is owner and ruler of all that we encounter. Embracing this principle helps us see Him in His role as Sovereign Lord.

ACTION ITEMS

Let's take inventory of our thoughts and actions as it pertains to Divine Ownership. As we reflect over our lives the past few months, how have we operated? We all are in possession of Time, Talent (abilities), and Treasure (financial resources), to what degree can we honestly say, we have acknowledged and utilized them with our central thought and commitment that **they come from and belong to God?**

INVOLVING OTHERS

Share honestly in your small group, how you have thought and acted with the resources you possess. Have a lively discussion regarding **Divine Ownership** and how it should affect what we do with what is not ours.

FINANCIAL HEALTH WELLNESS WHOLENESS CALLED TO BE FAITHFUL STEWARDS

SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY Tuesday, September 7, 2021
[Deuteronomy 8:18](#); [1 Corinthians 4:2](#);
[1 Corinthians 4:7](#)

STUDY & REFLECTION

Our foundational principle in this critical teaching is that God is the Divine Owner. Of course the opposite then applies to every human being...**WE OWN NOTHING!**

The only reason, the source of whatever we possess is that God is kind and gracious. This is why we have what we have.

In the passage from Deuteronomy, Moses is clear as he reminds the generation that is to possess the Promised Land
Deut 8:18

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. (KJV)

We own nothing. It is by God's graciousness that we are given opportunity and increase. As it relates to His people, He is the direct reason that we are able to prosper. This is emphasized in Paul's writing in 1 Cor 4:7 when he reminds us....

For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it? 1 Cor 4:7

What we have is owned by God, and came from God. We are not creators of anything. What we possess, we received! All of our resources are a result of the Favor and Blessings of God!

That makes us Stewards. A steward according to the Word of God is a Trusted Manager.

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. 1 Cor 4:2 (KJV)

ACTION ITEMS

Are you a steward? Honestly, have you seen yourself and operated with the motivation that you are a manager of someone else's goods?

Because of the influence of what surrounds us, it is easy to think and operate as if we are owners, determining what we will do with what we have. Be bold, reflect on to what degree have you operated as an owner versus a trusted steward. Actually seek repentance and forgiveness in this area and commit to a new attitude and new operation of what He has trusted you with.

INVOLVING OTHERS

Have an open and lively discussion regarding how we tend to think and operate as we utilize the resources the Lord has blessed us with. Have we appreciated and given proper thanks to the Lord for His Favor and Blessings?

Begin fresh and renew this covenant.

FINANCIAL HEALTH WELLNESS WHOLENESS

OUR RESOURCES: KINGDOM ASSETS!

SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY Wednesday, September 8, 2021
[Deuteronomy 8:18](#); [Matthew 25:14-29](#)

STUDY & REFLECTION

Today's study moves us deeper into the heart of God, and gives us insight regarding how God sees the resources we have been made stewards over and in particular their general purpose in our lives. The passage in Deuteronomy 8, is one of several in that book including chapter 7 where Jehovah spells out His relationship with them and the reason for the covenant He made with their fathers. **Here we see that He gave them the ability and opportunity gain resources in order to “establish His Covenant” with them.** This was God's promise to Abraham. God chose them to be His people to manifest and demonstrate to the world Who God Was and Is.

In His grace Jehovah chose them to reveal to the world the Greatness of God and How He was in relationship with His People. This relationship and purpose reaches an even greater expression in the New Testament, where Jesus instructs us on the nature of His Kingdom and the relationship and expectations He has with those who are His. Here He is clear that the 'goods' given to each of the 'servants,' belonged to the master, who put them in the possession of each one and left on a long journey. **The parable clearly teaches that not all have the same amount of goods, but each one was expected to use the goods in such a way as to enlarge the master's treasure.**

Every one of us who belongs to Christ has been given valuable assets. They are not ours to do with them as we will but to be used with wisdom in order for them to grow and multiply. His return will be marked with a critical assessment of how well we have utilized that which is His.

ACTION ITEMS

What has been placed in your hands as a steward of the Kingdom?

All of us have been given valuable assets, Time (opportunities) Talent (abilities/gifts) Treasure (monetary resources), to be used in such a manner that they will expand, grow, and multiply. We must invest what we have been given and can be assured that the assets will prosper.

How would you assess your stewardship?

INVOLVING OTHERS

One of the great blessings of genuine Christian community and association, is that what we need to become better is often found in the gifts and abilities of others. Don't let your pride get in your way. Allow others with ability and experience to help you to become a better steward of the Kingdom's Assets.

Financial Health, Wellness, Wholeness

YOU, GOD AND MONEY

SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY Thursday, September 9, 2021
Haggai 2:8; Matthew 6:24

STUDY & REFLECTION

Let's go back to one of our opening statements in this teaching series. ***"Folk get funny, when you talk about money!"*** In our study, we plan to cover a wide scope of assets and resources that the Lord in His kindness, allows us to receive and manage. We will cover a number of subjects that are inclusive of our time, talents and treasure. But let us first confront the 'elephant in the room, MONEY!

This subject is always a sensitive one. This is especially true when it comes to money and the church. People will often tell you how willing and how much they give of themselves and their time to the house of God. However, most become somewhat defensive when you talk about money! WHY IS THIS?

The reason we often freeze up and become defensive regarding the subject of money is not of itself evil. MONEY IS IMPORTANT!

Your money is a representation of your life. Your pay, your salary, your revenue in many ways represent the worth of your time and talent. Monetary gain is often the payoff after you have invested years in education, and put in focused time learning a craft so that you would gain expertise and knowledge in a particular field. Such commitment should often be recognized, appreciated and even applauded. being paid based on the measure of your expertise is not to be shunned.

Yet as in anything that can be good and beneficial, there is always the opportunity for evil. Money is so powerful, that in our society, the enemy has found a way to use it for his benefit and purposes. This is what the Lord Jesus warns us..."You cannot serve God and MONEY!" Yes, if we are not careful we will find that we cherish and worship, i.e. we "bow down," to money.

Remember It ALL belongs to Him. We must not follow the world's way of seeing and using money. We must not allow money and the pursuit of it, the possession of it to rule us.

In many ways, the god of this world, is MONEY.

ACTION ITEMS

Jesus said we cannot serve two masters. We must love one and hate the other. In other words money must not become that which we find so important that the pursuit of it, the possession of it, the embracing of it, is what motivates our lives. Have you allowed money to possess you? Has the pursuit of money compromised your objectives? This will become clearer as we begin to deal with our attitudes regarding giving.

INVOLVING OTHERS

On your group discussion, be open and courageous and see if together you can identify how you see and deal with money. Be prepared to listen and learn from one another.

Finical Health, Wellness, Wholeness

YOU GOD AND MONEY II

SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY

Friday, September 10, 2021

[Psalm 24:1](#); [Deuteronomy 8:18](#); [1 Corinthians 4:2](#);
[1 Corinthians 4:7](#); [Matthew 6:24](#)

STUDY & REFLECTION

This topic is so important, we must spend focused time to study and reflect on the scriptures given. I challenge you to study and reflect on the principles that we have already covered. We will need them as we begin to take these truths and see how we have and how we should implement and apply them. In particular we must have the courage to seek and ask the Holy Spirit to help us to expose our strongholds regarding God, money, and the Kingdom. To acknowledge such and be open to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit via the Word of God is essential.

Consider this, in light of the scriptures we have studied and money. There are really only three things you can do with money and please the Lord:

1. Give it cheerfully, generously, to accomplish God-honoring purposes.
2. Spend it reasonably to meet personal needs and to fulfill personal desires.
3. Save/Invest it strategically in order to extend its value and to keep meeting needs in the future.

ACTION ITEMS

Prepare for the teaching in specifics in the time we have ahead. One way is to compare how you have used your money in light of the three usages outlined in today's teaching.

INVOLVING OTHERS

Use your small group as a place to involve corporate prayer and then reflection. Specifically seek the Lord to help you as a group to relook at the issue of God, Money and His Kingdom. Let's get prepared as a corporate Body to become Trusted Stewards of Kingdom Resources.

**YOUR
ASSIGNMENT**

I challenge you to do this practical exercise in regards to your financial health wellness and wholeness.

Open your checkbook (if you don't have one, use the electronic ledger/app/device that you use to keep track of your financial transactions).

Look at the various ways you have used your money over the past three months, and quantify them in categories, i.e. money for food, clothes, education, mortgage, rent, tithes, offerings, investments, etc.

Now take a look at how you have used your revenue.

This will tell a story and give you a picture of what is important in your life and how you have been stewarding the resources God gives you.

SHALOM!!