

# Biblical Financial Wisdom

## Principle of Ownership

1. The foundational principle in Scripture for handling material things is that God owns everything.
  - A. The earth is the Lord's – Psalm 24:1-2 (539)
  - B. God owns everything and has no needs – Psalm 50:10-12 (555)
  - C. Everything belongs to God – Job 41:11 (525)
  - D. All we possess belongs to God – 1 Chronicles 29:10-14 (420)
    - 1) David had challenged the people of Israel to bring gifts for the building of the temple
    - 2) In the face of their overwhelming generosity, David thanks God – vs. 10
    - 3) David acknowledges that everything belongs to God – vs. 11
    - 4) Wealth and honor come from God – vs. 12
    - 5) Our generosity is just giving back to God, some of what is already His – vs. 13-14
  - E. It is God that gives us the abilities to accomplish what we are able to do – Deuteronomy 8:17-18 (180)
2. If God is the owner of everything we have, what should be our perspective of material things?
  - A. One who is entrusted with something is to be faithful – 1 Corinthians 4:2 (1107)
  - B. Stewards (or managers) are rewarded for faithful service with greater trust – Luke 16:10-15 (1014)
    - 1) Faithfulness is rewarded with greater trust – vs. 10-12
    - 2) We cannot serve two masters, we must choose between God and personal gain – vs. 13
    - 3) What is valued among men is detested by God – vs. 14-15
  - C. Positive example of stewardship – Joseph
    - 1) Joseph was entrusted with a position of great authority and responsibility because of his faithfulness – Genesis 39:1-6 (40)
    - 2) Joseph demonstrated integrity even at great personal cost – Genesis 39:7-10, 20 (40)
    - 3) Even in prison Joseph continued to be faithful – Genesis 39:21-23 (41)
    - 4) After interpreting Pharaoh's dream (several years later) Joseph is once again given great responsibility and authority – Genesis 41:39-41 (43)
  - D. Negative example of stewardship – Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 4:28-37 (860)
    - 1) Nebuchadnezzar takes credit for all God has given him – vs. 28-30
    - 2) God punishes Nebuchadnezzar for his arrogance – vs. 31-33
    - 3) Nebuchadnezzar gives credit to God and his sanity is restored – vs. 34-37
3. Lessons Learned:
  - A. God owns everything we have
  - B. God has entrusted many things to our care
  - C. Our role is to be a servant and a steward (or manager) of what God has entrusted to us
  - D. Since everything is His, He can best show us how to use it
  - E. Taking credit for God's provision is dangerous arrogance