

GOD, YOUR MONEY, AND CHRISTMAS

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1. Incremental Tithing Rarely Works or Lasts

(1 Corinthians 16:1-2;

2 Corinthians 8:1-11)

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1 Cor. 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.

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2 On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

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2 Cor. 8:1We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,

2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

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3 For they gave according to their means,
as I can testify, and beyond their means, of
their own accord,

4 begging us earnestly for the favor of
taking part in the relief of the saints—

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5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

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6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace.

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7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

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8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.

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9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

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10 And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it.

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11 So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have.

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2. BIBLICAL Money Management Always Begins with Regular Giving to God *(2 Corinthians 9:6-8)*

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2 Cor. 9:6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

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7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

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3. SURPRISE! We're Doing Better Than We Believe!

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4. Blaming Older Generations is Normal – But Counter-Productive (and Removes Individual Responsibility and Accountability) *(Ezekiel 18:1-3)*

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Ezekiel 18:1The word of the LORD came to me:
2 “What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge’?

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3 As I live, declares the Lord
GOD, this proverb shall no
more be used by you in Israel.

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5. Living Large? Try Living Medium or Even Small if Necessary
(1 Timothy 6:6-10)

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1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain,

7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

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8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

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9 But those who desire to be rich
fall into temptation, into a snare,
into many senseless and harmful
desires that plunge people into
ruin and destruction.

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10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

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6. Don't Act 'Too Good' for Certain Careers – It May Be Exactly How God Longs to Bless You (and Your Family)
(Proverbs 13:11; 22:29)

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Proverbs 13:11 Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

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Prov. 22:29 Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.


Biblical financial
management