

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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Looking for Something That Does Not Exist

Psalm 39:6-7

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Have you ever looked for something that you could not find? Have you ever looked for something that did not exist? The other day I was putting together a wooden desk for my wife. Since men never make mistakes (!), let's just say that I made an error in judgment when putting together part of the desk. The piece in question was glued with a dowel. I needed to separate the two pieces, but the dried glue was working very well. I needed to use a small saw to cut the dowel and free the wooden piece.

I thought I owned a small saw that would work. I went to my tool area and began looking, but I could not find it. My tools are fairly organized, so after a few minutes it finally dawned on me that I could not find the saw because it did not exist—at least in my house. I was looking for something that did not exist.

We do that in other areas of our lives as well. We seek things called “success” or “financial security,” but I do not know many happy people who pursue these things. Listen to the Psalmist David, “Man is a mere phantom as he goes to and fro: He bustles about, but only in vain; he heaps up wealth, not knowing who will get it” (Ps. 39:6, NIV). What occupied your time this week? Were you overly busy with succeeding in your work? Did Powerball-mania pique your interest and your pocketbook?

From God's perspective, those who seek after security in riches are looking for something that they cannot find. Security can never be found in things that do not last. Our money will not follow us to heaven, but the results of how we use it certainly will. What was David's solution to this

dilemma: “But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you” (Ps. 39:7, NIV). Our hope in salvation is dependent on the finished work of Christ. Our hope in eternal blessing is dependent on the promises of God. Is God all we need? He thinks so.

Are you looking for something that does not exist in terms of wealth (security)? Your checkbook and credit card statement will reveal it if you are. Wealth must be viewed from God's perspective. He owns it and we are His stewards (Ps. 24). Here are some characteristics of someone who practices biblical stewardship:

- A biblical steward spends only what is brought home in his or her paycheck.
- A biblical steward gives generously to the Lord's work starting with his or her local church.
- A biblical steward has a financial plan that includes an updated will and gives to the Lord's work through it.

I did fix my wife's desk, but I had to look for a different tool and use a different method. Don't try to find your security in wealth. Find your security in God. This will have practical implications on your life. If you would like further information on budgeting and how to develop a Christian will, send for our free Stewardship Pack. Hope in God.

BBC Foundation has been ministering to churches and individuals regarding biblical stewardship since 1992. Send your questions on finances and stewardship to: BBC Foundation, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Phone: (800) 451-8668, website: bbcfoundation.org; e-mail: info@bbcfoundation.org