

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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A Maze with No Exit

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Imagine being placed in a maze. The walls extend over your head – high enough, in fact, that you can't climb out. The walls are so close that you can touch both sides of any corridor. This makes you feel claustrophobic. Many of the corridors are long and dimly lit. All decisions to improve your situation look equally confusing – equally bad. You don't know where you are going, and doing nothing seems to be more productive than perpetually getting lost.

You don't even know where you started from and you begin to think that you will never get out. In fact, you begin to believe that the maze has no exit. What are you going to do?

Many people believe their financial situation is like a maze with no exit. The walls of debt feel like they are continually closing in. No matter how hard you try or how many financial articles you read, you can never seem to find a way out.

When you are in a maze, wouldn't it be helpful if you could simply levitate above it for a few moments in order to gain a bigger perspective? You would finally locate the exit. Once you saw the "big picture" of the maze, you would have hope and be able to focus your escape.

The Scriptures are our source to give us the "big picture" on personal finances. Jesus Christ spoke much about money because He knows that we need help. He stands at the exit of our financial maze and calls in to us. If we follow His voice, we will be able to make it out.

Consider some of Jesus' instructions from the gospel of Matthew:

- Glorify God with your giving – not yourself (6:1-4).
- Lay up treasures in heaven – they last (6:19-21).
- Do not worry. God will supply your needs (6:25-34).
- God can multiply a gift (15:32-39).
- You must stop loving your money (19:16-26).
- God is more interested in our giving heart than our giving amount (23:23).
- God uses stewardship as a test for future rewards (25:14-30).
- Some people are led into sin by greed and envy (26:14-19).

Do you find yourself in a financial maze? You can get out, but only by following the words of Jesus. Stewardship means more than improving your financial situation. It means managing your money to glorify God. We will give an account to Him (Rom. 14:12).

Could your church use some clear teaching to help members get out of their financial maze? Contact BBC Foundation about our Stewardship Weekend ministry. We can help.

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