

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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Green Eggs and Ham Management

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Some people have never tried a personal budget because they have convinced themselves they won't like it. But a budget is not a burden. It is a blessing. It helps you make the most of your scarce dollars.

I write and speak extensively about biblical money management. Just call me "Steward Man." Steward Man is convinced of this: You need a "Steward Plan" (budget.) You do not like it, so you say. Try it. Try it, and you may. Try it, and you may, I say.

If you do, you will likely have the following response (my apologies to Dr. Seuss):

Say! I like my Steward Plan!

I do! I like it, Steward Man!

It can help me buy a boat.

And it can help me buy a goat...

And have a roof that keeps out rain.

And go cross-country on a train.

And buy a car that is debt free.

Wow! This is so good to me!

So I will keep it in a box.

And I will keep it with a fox.

And I will use it for my house.

And I will budget a pet mouse.

And I will keep it here and there.

Say! I will keep it ANYWHERE!

I do so like my Steward Plan!

Thank you! Thank you, Steward Man!

Sometimes, it is hard to try something you think you won't like. After all, what if you are right? But, on the other hand, what if you are wrong? What if a budget really works? What if it changes your finances and your family? Is it worth the risk?

A couple of years ago, my oldest daughter told me repeatedly that she was absolutely sure she would not like chocolate pancakes. She grudgingly tried them one Saturday morning. Guess what? She loves them! We both look back at that and laugh.

A budget is simply a plan, and planning is well thought of in the Bible. "The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty" (Proverbs 21:5, NASB). Contact BBC Foundation for a one-page sample budget that can help you establish a life-long "Steward Plan."

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