

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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Purpose-Driven Finances-Created to be Stewards

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Perhaps you have heard of or read [The Purpose-Driven Life](#) by Pastor Rick Warren. It has been a NY Times top-ten bestseller for months. When a Christian book is extremely popular in our post-Christian society, we must ask ourselves “why?”

Warren’s book deals with a topic that every heart asks: “What on earth am I here for?” The presupposition of the book is: It’s all about God. Readers are encouraged to live life with a purpose - God’s purposes (worship, ministry, evangelism, fellowship, discipleship) - to find happiness.

I began to wonder about the idea of Purpose-Driven Finances - using money with a purpose. Answering the question, “What should I do with my money?” and facing the presupposition that only God provides real security and happiness. If my life should revolve around God’s purposes, how can I make my money do the same?

Worship-Created to be Stewards

You learn much about a person when you see how he handles adversity and how he finishes his life. In 1 Chronicles 29:10-16, we find King David at both of those points. David was told that he would not personally fulfill his goal of building the Temple (1 Chronicles 28:2-3). At the end of the book, Solomon is anointed King, and David died (29:22-30). In between those two events, David made some statements that we would be wise to listen to.

- God owns everything (11)
- God gave you whatever you have (12)
- You couldn’t give if God was not generous with you (14)
- Life is temporary (15)
- God gives to us so we can be transformed as we give to Him (16)

King David supported those words with his actions. He gave of his personal wealth toward the Temple (29:1-5). This was risky. Kings generally want to have their

kingdoms endure. Many kings would have left everything to their son.

But David understood that God is the Creator and Owner of everything. David knew that people remembering God is more important than people remembering him. David had great wealth and power, but he knew that God granted both.

Would the Temple still have been built if David had not given? Absolutely! God is not thwarted by our actions. We are the ones who miss the blessings of stewardship when we live like owners. Owners think they are responsible for their security. This produces worry and a frantic search for the right financial opportunities.

History is full of examples of people who sought security in wealth only to realize a life of futility. Howard Hughes took inherited wealth and created a financial empire worth billions. He believed the myth of more. He thought that more money, power and sensual pleasure would bring him more happiness. Based on how he died, he never found what he sought.

Malcolm Forbes once said, “He who dies with the most toys wins.” David did not hold to that philosophy. God’s greatest gift to us is not the wealth we have, but Himself. As we treasure Him more, money is put in its proper perspective. We are created to be stewards. Live like one.

In the coming weeks, we will unwrap Purpose-Driven Finances. Next week, we will focus on God’s desire for us to have a ministry, and how money can be used to strengthen that purpose.

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