

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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Purpose Driven Finances – Formed for One God

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Over the past weeks, we have been discussing Purpose-Driven Finances, based on Rick Warren's book [The Purpose-Driven Life](#). Warren outlines God's five purposes for every person: worship, ministry, evangelism, fellowship, and discipleship. What does Purpose-Driven Finances look like?

- Worship – Created to be stewards
- Ministry – Equipped to be partners
- Evangelism – Saved to value people
- Fellowship – Adopted to meet needs

Discipleship – Formed for One God

You have been created to become like Jesus Christ – not in the sense of deity, but in the sense of motivation and actions. God wants you to be holy and have allegiance to Him alone. But that is easier said than done, especially in the area of finances.

Many things vie for our attention, but money does even more. It wants to control us. Jesus taught His followers a simple principle: one servant, one master. "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matt 6:24).

People often pray for wisdom regarding financial decisions. But God is less interested in what we do with our money and more interested in what our money does to us. Money is a spiritual tool in our lives. It can lead us away from God or can draw us closer to Him. We have been created to worship God, but money can become a subtle distraction. If we are not careful, the pursuit of money can interrupt our worship.

I have young children, so I understand about interruptions. After dinner, I enjoy talking with my

wife in a quiet room. Inevitably, one of my daughters will want my attention and break into our conversation. While we try to teach our daughters about manners, sometimes they successfully divert my attention.

People are easily distracted. God wants our attention and probably marvels that our money is more interesting to us than He is. Martin Luther once wrote, "It is easier for God to save a man's soul from hell, than wrestle his hand from his wallet."

What does life look like if we are distracted by money? Financial decisions are motivated by a desire for security, and storing our treasures on earth doesn't even bother us. What does life look like if we are focused on God? Financial decisions are flavored with contentment, and laying up treasures in heaven becomes excitingly typical.

Rich and poor alike can become distracted by money. One of the most spiritual things you can do is make a budget. Get out of debt, but don't keep your new cash flow. Give more to ministry and lay up more treasure in heaven.

Who is your master: God or money? If you want to live life on purpose, make financial decisions that actually draw you closer to God (Matt 6:19-21).

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