

BIBLICAL FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES

A survey of Scripture



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Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA
October 28-November 1, 2019
Trinity College and Seminary



BIBLICAL FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES: (Note to instructor: Some of the following slides can be tailored to fit your personal tastes and teaching style).

My name is Don Wilkin. I live in the U.S. in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I want to welcome you to this seminar entitled Biblical Financial Principles. It is a survey of Scripture regarding money and wealth. God's Word has much to say about this subject and we will spend the next several days studying these topics. It is my pleasure to be your host.

Biblical teaching about money and wealth

A survey of Scripture

I. Introduction

II. A survey of Biblical teaching on money and wealth

III. 10 Biblical principles about money and wealth

- 1. God owns everything and we are His stewards**
- 2. Worship and trust God rather than money**
- 3. Beware of the love of money**
- 4. God cares how we manage our money**
- 5. Honor God by faithfully giving of our income**
- 6. Develop a lifestyle which creates margin**
- 7. Cultivate a generous heart and live sacrificially**
- 8. Care for the poor, the weak, the oppressed, and the needy**
- 9. Use wealth to glorify God and build treasure in heaven**
- 10. Pursue the true riches rather than material wealth**

IV. Money and your family

V. Money and the local church

VI. Money and business

VII. Money and society

Biblical teaching about money and wealth: This seminar consists of several sections. We'll spend about a day and ½ doing an independent, inductive study of a number of Biblical passages concerning riches, poverty and the management of money. This will help prepare the class for the next section which is entitled "10 Biblical principles about money and wealth". I will not read each principle, but you can see that collectively they cover a range of attitudes and practices involving the area of finances. The final four sections are categorical in nature and augment the 10 Biblical principles. They will be presented Friday morning prior to the final exam.

Introduction

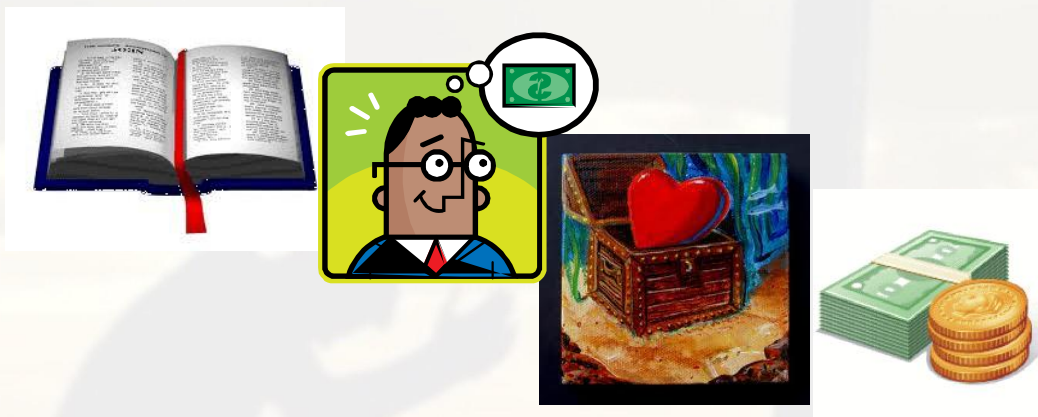
1. Course overview
2. Underlying message of this course
3. Presuppositions
4. Cultural issues
5. Sources and acknowledgements
6. Schedule for the week
7. Class values
8. Class administration
9. Course grading
10. Awards and prizes
11. Special project
12. Personal information

Introduction: Here is the outline for this introduction. We will look at the schedule for the week, then do a brief course overview. We will discuss the underlying message of this course, our presuppositions, and touch on cultural issues. Part six of the introduction gives proper credit to a number of sources used in the preparation of this seminar. Next I will share some personal information. Then we'll talk about the class itself: the values that will govern our time together, how the class will be administered, course grading, awards and prizes, etc. Finally, we will preview the special project that we will do as a class.

1. Course overview

Objective

- **Examine Biblical teaching about money in order to align our heart with God's, enabling us to demonstrate our love for God by living righteously in the financial area of our lives**

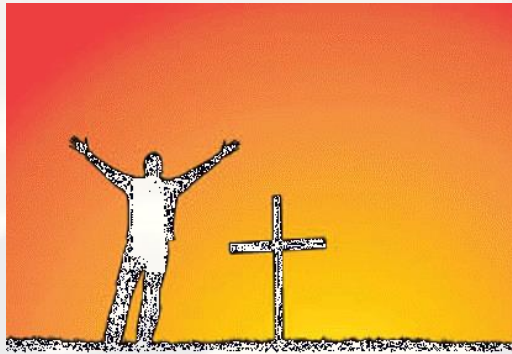


2. Course overview: Let's now consider the scope of this course from 10,000 meters, or a high-level. This course is about more than just passing along information. Our primary objective is to change our hearts by examining what the Bible has to say about money and wealth. We want to let that information penetrate into our hearts so that we may align them with God's heart. If our hearts are aligned with his, it will enable us to please him with the financial decisions we make as we go through life. Thus, the position of this course is shown in the clip art: if we let Scripture inform us regarding God's desires for our finances, and let it penetrate our hearts, it will help us make righteous decisions in the financial area of life, both tactically and strategically.

2. Underlying message of this seminar

God wants our heart

- **The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith. 1 Timothy 1:5 (NLT)**



The underlying theme of this seminar is a change of heart based on understanding of Biblical truth. As we make righteous decisions, our consciences will be clear. And our attitudes and behavior will be an indication of authentic faith. Let's read our theme verse together, as we will at the beginning of each of the 10 principles we will be studying later. A

From mind to heart

Transformation of the heart begins with the renewing of the mind (RC Sproul, *The Truth Project*, tour #1)



From mind to heart: The late Dr. R. C. Sproul said it well: the transformation of the heart begins with the renewing of the mind. Therefore, I hope that we will be engaging our minds in our study with the intention of internalizing what we learn in such that it becomes a part of who we are at our core.

3. Presuppositions

- **As followers of Christ and students of the Word of God, you are practicing many, if not all, of the principles contained in this seminar and, therefore, you may already be familiar with them**
- **Though these principles are developed from an inductive “survey” of Scripture and are intended to be faithful to its teaching, the included Bible references permit further in-depth investigation, criticism, discussion, and content improvement in order to be increasingly more faithful to the Word of God**
- **By assembling them into one comprehensive framework, my hope is that these principles will be a useful body of knowledge for your personal application as well as a resource for teaching others**

4. Presuppositions: Here are this seminar’s presuppositions:

1. I know that many, if not all of you, are already practicing many of the principles we will be studying. Therefore, I’m hoping that you will share your insights with the class during our time together, based on your familiarity with these topics.
2. The second presumption is that what we learn through our inductive study and the subsequent presentation of the principles will be faithful to God’s Word. However, I realize that there may be some disagreement or alternative views to those presented. Therefore the student is encouraged to do further research and study

in order to more closely conform this content to the truth of Scripture. To help with that goal, some of the passages that apply to each point are listed for easy reference and future study.

3. By assembling the information in Scripture into a body of knowledge, my presumption is that this will provide a framework for personal application of the principles as well as a tool for teaching others.

4. Cultural issues

We recognize that social, economic, political and religious customs vary from culture to culture. Therefore, it is not our purpose to dogmatically assert a biased Western perspective of financial principles on the student, but rather to work together to:

- a) examine basic Biblical teaching about money**
- b) extract basic principles from this teaching using the inductive study method, then**
- c) develop practical life applications of those principles which are culturally independent and universally true >**

5. Cultural issues: I wanted to talk about cultural issues briefly. I realize I come into this classroom as a westerner with western values and culture. I would not dare presume to overlay my values and culture on you. In order to avoid doing that, my intent is to study the Scriptures involved for their meaning and interpretation, extract basic principles from the interpretation, then apply them in ways that are culturally and personally appropriate.

5. Sources and acknowledgements

- **The Bible: NIV, NLT, KJV, NAS, ESV, RSV, others; all quotes are from the NIV unless noted otherwise**
- **40 Day Journey to a more Generous Life by Brian Kluth, pastor of Generosity, 1st Evangelical Free Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA; (kluth.org)**
- **“7 Keys to Open-Handed Living in a Tight-Fisted World” by Brian Kluth; (kluth.org)**
- **Ron Blue, “Master your Money” (ronblue.com; kingdomadvisors.org)**
- **Larry Burkett, Dave Ramsey, and other Christian financial counselors**
- **Rob Caminiti, Sr. Pastor, First EFC Colorado Springs**
- **Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary**
- **Various other resources from commentaries, books, pamphlets, seminars and the internet**

6. Sources and acknowledgements: I would like to acknowledge many sources, including a number of Christian financial counselors and authors. I want to give special recognition to two people in particular:

- 1) Mr. Ron Blue, a prominent financial teacher and author of the book “Master your Money”; and
- 2) Dr. Brian Kluth, my former pastor who has a world-wide ministry of teaching Biblical generosity.

I have learned a great deal from these two men along with the other resources that are listed above.

Ron Blue

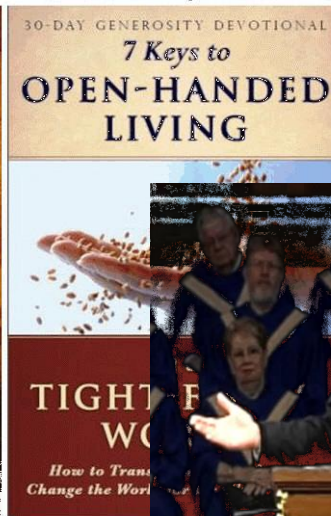
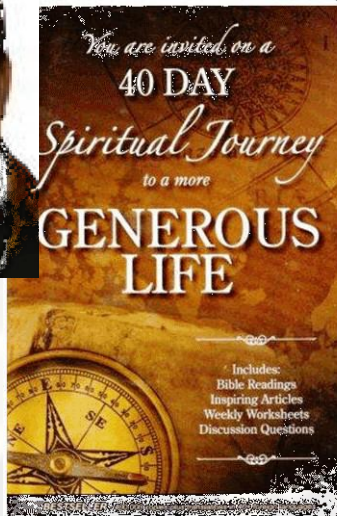
Christian Biblical Financial Counselor and Teacher



Author,
“Master your Money”

Ron Blue: Mr. Ron Blue, Christian Biblical financial counsellor and teacher

Brian Kluth



Brian Kluth: Dr. Brian Kluth, author, speaker and world-wide minister of generosity

6. Daily schedule

- **9:30 am: Morning class begins**
- **10:00 am: Exercise break (7 minutes, led by your Olympic Training Coach)**
- **11:00 am: Exercise break**
- **12:00 noon: Lunch/tea break**
- **12:30 pm: Afternoon class begins**
- **1:30 pm: Exercise break**
- **2:30 pm: Exercise break**
- **3:30 pm: Class adjourns >**

7. Daily schedule: Our daily schedule will be as follows: the morning session will be from 9:30 AM to 12:00 noon. We will take to short breaks during that period. The afternoon session will be from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM, again with two short breaks.

Optional homework

Monday-Thursday

- **Homework: read 10 lessons of “40 DAY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY TO A MORE GENEROUS LIFE” by Brian Kluth**
- **Kluth.org**
- **For each of the 10 lessons,**
 - **Write a brief statement of what you learned from the lesson.**
 - **Write out your favorite verse >**

Optional homework: Homework is not required during this seminar. However, if you would like to become more familiar with the subject, I recommend Brian Kluth’s booklet “40 Day Spiritual Journey To A More Generous Life” which you can find at Kluth.org.

8. Class values

- **Complete honesty is required. You will be on the honor system to do your own grading of class quizzes**
- **Class participation--points are awarded for asking questions and sharing your knowledge**
- **Attentiveness will be helpful to the student**
- **Challenge me on anything you disagree with**
- **Verbalize any areas of confusion you may have**
- **Let's have fun learning >**

8. Class values

- It goes without saying that complete honesty is required. You will be on the honor system to do your own grading of class quizzes and perform your own work on the final exam
- Class participation--points are awarded for asking questions and sharing your knowledge
- Attentiveness will be helpful to the student
- Please challenge me on anything you disagree with
- Verbalize any areas of confusion you may have
- Let's have fun learning

9. Class administration



9. Class administration

The fine thing we will need to do by way of introduction is to select class leaders and a little housekeeping.

Name tag

- Please fold a sheet of paper into three sections.
- Write you first name in large caps in the middle section.
- Fold it so that it forms a triangle, and tape the ends together.



Name tag: Note to instructor: please have the students wear or construct a name tag so that you can recognize them by name during the seminar.

Class administration (cont'd)

- **Please elect a class chairman who will**
 - **Keep track of our time and notify me of recesses**
 - **Conduct other administrative tasks**
- **Appoint a banker for the Christian lottery (Banker gets a free ticket)**
- **Appoint an Olympic Training Coach to lead us in our daily physical exercises and games.**
- **Just as Moses needed an assistant, I will need an “Aaron” who will assist me as required and do interpretation as needed. >**

Class administration

- First, let's elect a class chairman. He will keep track of our time and notify me of recesses, perform general administrative duties, and be the leader of our special project during the week. So class, who do you nominate as chairman?
- Secondly, we need to appoint a banker for the Christian lottery. Our banker will get a free ticket to play! Who would like to nominate our banker?
- Thirdly we need to appoint an Olympic training coach to lead us during our class break times as we loosen up our stiff muscles. This is a highly skilled position, so we need a real athlete to be our Olympic training coach. Who will that be?

- Finally, just as Moses needed an assistant, I will also need my “Aaron” who will help me as interpreter and speaker as required. This person should be fluent not only in his local language and possibly one or two others, but English as well. Who will volunteer to be Aaron?

Class administration (cont'd)

Officers

- **Chairman: John**
- **Olympic Training Coach, OTC (leads class exercises during breaks): James**
- **Banker (keeper of class money): Eunice**
- **“Aaron” the interpreter (helps with the instructor/student communication process): Jasper**

Class administration (cont'd): List the class officers for your future reference

Class administration

- **This is a Bible study. Please bring your Bible to class every day. However, almost all texts will be displayed so that we can read from a common version**
- **We will use the NIV and other translations which may be helpful in understanding the text**
- **Also bring a spiral notebook or a pad of paper for taking notes. There is not enough room on your syllabus, so use a system for cross referencing your notes with your syllabus**
- **Class participation is very important, and will be a major factor in your grade >**

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Class administration (cont'd)

- **Please put your name on your syllabus and notebook**
- **Please print your name at the top of every page you turn in.**
- **If my presentation is slightly different from your outline. If you get lost, please let me know >**

Class administration (cont'd):

- Please put your name on your syllabus and notebook
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- My presentation may be slightly different than your outline. If you get lost, please let me know

10. Course grading

Your overall grade will be composed of the following:

- **30% in-class quizzes, assignments and classroom participation**
- **35% final exam, objective portion (true-false and multiple choice)**
- **35% final exam, essay portion**
- **Although homework is optional, by doing it you will gain additional perspective on course content and thus may improve your performance**

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- 35% final exam, essay portion

Although homework is optional, by doing it you will gain additional perspective on course content, thus possibly improving your performance

Grading scale

Keep track of your points during the day

- **Points counting towards class participation are awarded for every verbal question, verbal answer, verbal statement, confusion clarification, helping someone, reading scripture, comment during class discussions, etc**
- **Points awarded for every correct true/false answer on quizzes**
- **Points awarded for every correct multiple choice answer**
- **Variable points for essay questions answered**
- **The professor may spontaneously award other points at his discretion for extra effort, logistical support, relating experiences, special insight, and interesting contributions.**

Grading scale: Each student is responsible for keeping track of his or her own points during the week. The score sheet is in your supplemental handout. Please bring your score sheet with you to class every day. (Note to instructor: at this point explain how the student is to use his score sheet)

- Points counting towards class participation are awarded for every verbal question, verbal answer, verbal statement, confusion clarification, helping someone, reading scripture, comment during class discussions, etc
- Points awarded for every correct true/false answer on quizzes
- Points awarded for every correct multiple choice answer

- Variable points for essay questions answered
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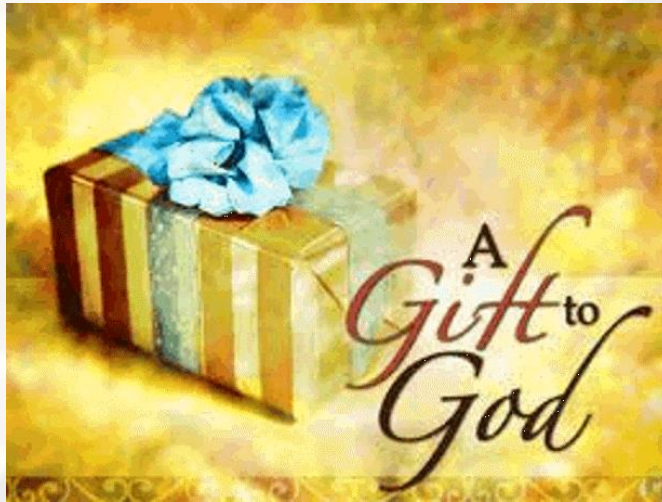
11. Awards and prizes

- **The top 5 academic performers will receive special prizes**
- **The class will elect a “students choice” winner**
- **There are practical awards for everyone regardless of their academic performance**
- **Other surprise awards and special events >**

11. Awards and prizes

- The top 5 academic performers will receive special prizes
- The class will elect a “students choice” winner, who will also be awarded a special prize.
- There are practical awards for everyone else regardless of their academic performance
- At the discretion of the instructor, there may be other surprise awards and special events

12. Special project



12. Special project: The class will undertake a special project which will be explained later in the week. Everyone in this class will have an opportunity to be a blessing to others by participating in this project

7. Personal information

- **My formal education is electrical engineering (BSEE) and business (MBA). I do not have formal Biblical training, so I expect to learn much from you theologians! Your comments and questions during this seminar are invited.**
- **I worked for Hewlett-Packard Co from 1967-91, practiced as an entrepreneur and business owner for since 1979, and participated in a few home remodeling and construction projects as an avocation. There was considerable overlap between these three acre careers, resulting in a lot of synergy between them.**
- **I felt a call from the Lord to missions when I was at the University. I had no idea God would eventually lead me to India in 1998 and many times since then for a running total of 17 trips.**

7. Personal information: (Note to instructor: the next two slides should be tailored to your story). My formal education is electrical engineering (BSEE) and business (MBA). I do not have formal Biblical training, so I expect to learn much from you theologians! Your comments and questions during this seminar are invited.

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Personal information (cont'd)

- **I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior when I was 7 years old under the counsel of my father**
- **My dad taught me basic Biblical principles of stewardship and money management as I grew up**
- **I married a Christian woman, my soul-mate, who shares my commitment to Biblical stewardship.**
- **As God blessed our marriage, I searched the Scriptures to better understand God's desire for the resources He entrusted to us. This seminar is a result of 60 years of continuous learning and practicing Biblical principles of stewardship.**

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Class exercise

Essay-15 minutes

- 1. What is your attitude or philosophy about money?**
- 2. What do you want God to show you during this course**
- 3. What questions about money would you like answered during this course?**

Be sure to put your name, tribe/state, major, and year of graduation at the top of your paper

Class exercise

Biblical teaching about money and wealth

A survey of Scripture

I. Introduction

II. A survey of Biblical teaching on money and wealth

III. 10 Biblical principles about money and wealth

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IV. Money and your family

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Biblical teaching about money and wealth: This concludes our introduction

Let's take a closer look at Scriptural teaching about money and wealth



Let's take a closer look at Scriptural teaching about money and wealth

SURVEY OF STUDENT KNOWLEDGE

Scale of 1 to 10 (1=little or no knowledge; 10=expert knowledge)

- **Poverty and God's special relationship with the poor**
- **Monetary riches**
- **Stewardship and generosity**
- **Acquiring money**
- **Spending money**
- **Budgeting money and how to achieve margin**
- **The benefits of margin**
- **Saving**
- **Investing**
- **True riches**
- **Family money management**
- **Church money management**
- **Christian business principles**
- **Society and monetary policy**

SURVEY OF STUDENT KNOWLEDGE: Note to instructor: this slide is included for the instructor who wish to assess student knowledge on various financial topics, by ask each student to evaluate himself on each topic at the beginning and at the end of this seminar. This tool can be used to analyze individual progress as well as identifying areas of priority for future seminars.