

## Study Guide

Monday, October 26- Friday, October 30

How and where we spend our money clearly betrays our ultimate allegiance. It's time for rebalancing our life investments, no longer measuring our lives by the culture's criteria of possessions, position and power.

**Monday, October 26- Read James 4:7-8, Proverbs 27:23 & Proverbs 28:29.** The economic crisis is perfect timing to begin reevaluating and rebalancing your life priorities and practices. To do so you must first check to make sure your priorities match up with God's priorities and not the priorities of this world. It is too easy to get caught up in selfish humanism or materialistic security and not focus on committing to God's will and God's ways, especially as they deal with finances.

- Do you think the current economic crisis could have a silver lining for your life? Explain.
- Name one priority in your life right now that might need to be changed or re-examined?
- Which world view do you struggle with the most: seeing yourself as the center determining your own priorities and values –or- finding security and meaning in "things?"

**Tuesday, October 27- Read Psalm 24:1 & Malachi 3:10-11.** Once you have right priorities you must begin adding the right actions if you want to reap the right results. The first right action is planned and consistent giving back to God. Giving back to God in resources, talent, and time proclaims that you trust God with what you have as well as shows your recognition that all things are God's anyway. You aren't the rightful owner of anything, all things belong to God. And when you give to God first you demonstrate your obedience and faith in God.

- How are you trusting in God right now in your financial life? Are you committed to doing whatever God determines for you?
- Do you truly consider your possessions as really owned by God? How would that belief affect what you do with your possessions?

**Wednesday, October 28 – Read Proverbs 15:22, Proverbs 22:7, and Jeremiah 29:11.** The next right actions include some very practical steps like seeking wise financial counsel, writing and sticking with a budget, performing plastic surgery on your credit cards, and setting future goals to attain. Each and every one of these steps is not only biblical based but a must-do if you want to properly prosper, but all the more in uncertain financial times.

- Do you have a household budget? Does it need to be reworked or refigured so that your priorities match God's priorities?
- Name some of your life goals? How are you planning to reach those goals and is God a part of the picture?
- Describe a time you delayed instant gratification for future goals and/or God's will? What happened?

**Thursday, October 29– Read Philippians 4:11-13 & James 4:8-10.** Finally, right actions also mean having an attitude of gratitude and praying to God to keep yourself aligned with where God would lead you. These right actions will keep your life and your finances in balance as God determines your next steps to building the kingdom of Christ.

- What are your goals for your financial future? Do they include God's desires?
- What right priority do you need to pursue or right action do you need to take to become more in line with God's work and will for your life right now?

**Friday, October 30- Read Matthew 6:19-33 and Proverbs 22:7.** As we go about our daily lives, it's easy to see with 'bad' eyes. Power and possessions seem to be linked to the promise of happiness and peace, and we are urged to pursue them. Many of us lose clarity on what we can afford. In our culture, it may be normal to borrow, but the proverb reminds us that when we do, we put ourselves under someone else's control. Why not try this strategy: *Simplify your lifestyle, live below your means. Pay off all credit card debt and use cash not credit cards.*