

A Time to Set Priorities...

We, T.L.C.C.'s leadership, believe financial times in our world are changing and priorities for many people are adjusting at an unprecedented rate. We also believe that the Bible is true, it's teachings are timeless and the lives of our families and communities will be profoundly better if we heed and live out the Bible's teachings.

Over the past couple years TLCC leadership has progressively moved toward minimizing our facility debt. \$2,500 above our regular monthly payment is already being made (\$12,000/month). Last year's transition from bonds to refinancing with County Bank was projected to save us about \$300,000 over 13 years. Even though our facility debt load is within banking and normal church facility standards, we are convinced it's time to develop an aggressive plan to eliminate this debt. Since 2005 more than 110 families have graduated from Financial Peace University. Therefore, even though we will always have some level of facility costs, we think our hearts and minds are ready to be challenged to minimize our church's debt load so we can redirect more financial priorities toward outreach and discipleship ministries.

This year starting May 1st 2016 we want to start paying down even more on our debt by giving money that is in excess of our budgeted income to be divided equally among: 1) paying down principle on our loan, 2) replacing a section of our deteriorating parking and 3) A plan for building and delivering water filters to TLCC Missionaries where water conditions are a concern. (An exciting start to this will be this summer's VBS mission which is Living Water in Haiti. Our kids will make water filters to be used in Haiti and our offering will go toward a new well and more filters.

In order to help us prepare for this stewardship studies are available for families, CARE Groups and Bible Fellowship Classes posted on the online CARE Sheet at dougdep.me/blog. There is no need to designate extra funds. Everything above our regular needed budgeted income will be automatically divided this October and next February.

Some things you can do...

- You can intentionally seek to identify God's leading, movement and support in your financial decisions this year. Write out your story, be ready to share it.
- You can plan to give above your regular giving to help reduce the debt, repair our parking lot and provide clean water to some of our missionaries.
- You can continue to support TLCC financially and intentionally pray that God will provide ways for us to maximize our ministry, by more aggressively reducing our facility's debt obligation.
- Attend the May 4th Financial Planning Seminar led by Phil Marley
- Attend the "Record HIStory in Your Life" seminar this September.
- Join the Financial Peace University class to start this September.

What the Bible says about...

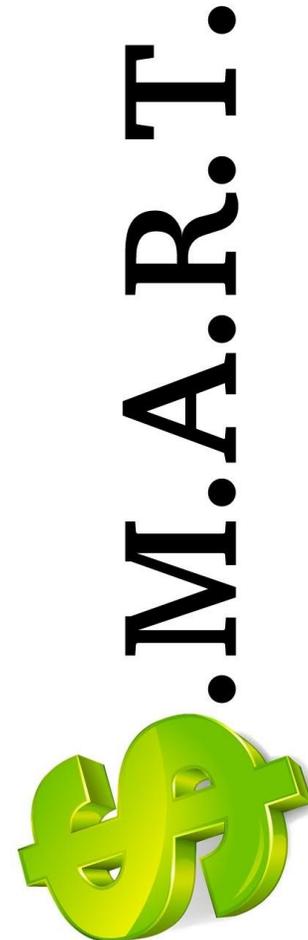
...Wealth

...Debt

...Poverty

...Giving

dougdep.me
(4/3, 10, 17, 24)



STEWARDS OF MONEY
AND RELIABLE TRUTH

12 Principles

Wealth...

1. God is the Source of everything and owns it all—we are stewards, not owners.
2. Stewardship is the purpose of wealth and how we handle it reveals our heart.
3. Selfishness is the problem not the wealth.

Debt...

1. Christians ought to live in freedom and contentment, but debt enslaves us.
2. Christians ought to live in peace and assurance, but debt causes worry, fear, and insecurity.
3. Christians ought to live generously, but debt ties up our resources.

Poverty...

1. You will always have the poor with you.
2. God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith.
3. Poverty is born out of an attitude, perpetuated by unproductive habits, and best addressed through discipleship.

Giving...

1. It's the heart/faith of the giver, not the size of the gift that unleashes God's blessing.
2. For some giving is a discipline and for others it is a gift. For both, it grows when practiced and dies when ignored.
3. When the heart of the giver is right then faith hope and love grows for many.

12 Questions

Wealth...

1. What is your perspective of your wealth?
2. What are your priorities?
3. What will be your consequences?

Debt...

1. In what ways does debt limit our freedom?
2. What would happen if you suddenly lost your primary source of income?
3. How has debt affected your ability to be generous?

Poverty...

1. What unbiblical assumptions do you have about people who are poor?
2. How does God view the poor and those who take advantage of them?
3. What does it mean to treat the poor with dignity?

Giving...

1. What are your motives for giving?
2. What are the characteristics of ministries worthy of your generosity?
3. What can you do to help grow your discipline/gift of giving?

16 Scriptures

Wealth...

1. 1 Chron. 29:11-12
2. Prov. 30:8-9
3. Matt. 6:19-21
4. Matt. 19:23-24

Debt...

1. Proverbs 22:7
2. James 4:13-16
3. Psalm 37:21
4. Romans 13:7-8

Poverty...

1. Matthew 26:11
2. James 2:5
3. Ezekiel 16:49
4. Leviticus 19:9-10

Giving...

1. Acts 6:1-5 (1 Corinthians 16:1-4)
2. Mark 12:41-44 (Phil. 4:17)
3. 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
4. Jeremiah 2:13 (Revelation 3:17-18)

"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours... 12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all."

- 1 Chron. 29:11-12

