

Stewardship- “How To Get the Most Out of Your Money”

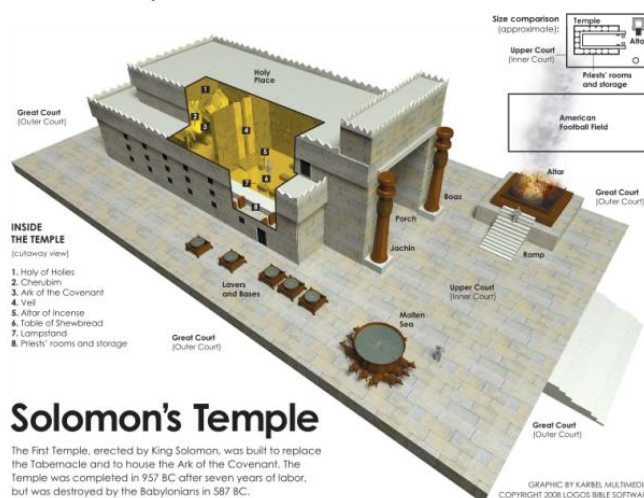
1 Chronicles 29:10-16

I heard about a church where there was a single woman in her late 50's, and she was a school teacher. She described to the pastor how she was afraid. She said, “Pastor, if I get sick or if something happens to me, who will take care of me?” She said, “I’ve had this fear now for several years and I just can’t seem to shake it.” The pastor said, “Sister, what you need to do is to sign over the title deed of your life and your finances to God.” He said, “We were never meant to carry the load of this life and how we would make it...after all, we’re children of God, and so, it’s up to our Father...that’s His job...you’re trying to do the job of the Father and it’s wearing you out!”

So, school teacher said, “Okay. I’ll try.” And she went home that night and knelt down beside her bed in her home and prayed, “Lord, I want to sign over to you the title deed to my life and my worries. It’s all yours Lord!” She said, “At that moment, I had the most amazing peace come over my life.” She said, “I got in my bed and I slept that night the best I had slept in years...all because I no longer had the weight of the responsibility for my life...God did.”

You see, Church family, what she learned is that there’s a fundamental connection with our peace and contentment and our trust in the Lord with our money. It’s hard to have peace if we aren’t right with God in how we handle our money. **Where are you today?** On which side of the deed are you today? Are you on the side of the deed where you feel the weight and responsibility, or on the side of the deed, where you have signed over your worries to God, the Father?

King David had experienced the best of life and he was nearing the end of his life. He was living in an elaborate paneled house, while God was revealing His glory in a tent...a traveling tabernacle. David said, “This is wrong! I’m living in a panel house and God has a tent. I’ll build Him a house.” But, God said, “No.”. God said, “You can’t build me a house, because you are a man of war, but your son can.” So David decided, “Okay, if I can’t build the house, I’ll help raise the money for it so that my son can build it.” Here’s a depiction of the house...known as Solomon’s Temple...



became one of the 7 wonders of the world. In today's money...David literally raised billions of dollars for the Temple AND in one of his final acts, before His death, he led the people in a magnificent prayer of proclamation in dedicating the Temple. This morning, I want us to see the power and peace that comes from trusting God with our money and, as we do so, I want us to keep this image in mind...



I want you to imagine that's the **Title Deed** to your life. And I want you to be honest with yourself this morning and ask yourself, whose name is on the title deed of my life? Is your name on it or God's? Who owns your life?

As we go through this passage today we're going to watch King David make a case for God as the supreme deed holder of all of life and all that is in the universe...and as we see this truth today, I believe it can lead us to learn how to rest in Him when it comes to our money.

1 Chronicles 29:10-16

¹⁰ Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. ¹¹ 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. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. 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. ¹³ And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. ¹⁴ "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. ¹⁵ For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. ¹⁶ O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.

As human beings, we tend to look at life through a prism of money...just like that school teacher we talked about earlier. We are constantly thinking about money. What will it cost? Will I have enough to pay my bills...to educate my kids...to retire? Will the stock market continue to rise or will it bust? Will my health hold out so I can work? Indeed, it's easy to look at life through a prism of money and when we do that it's even easier to leave God out of the equation. But, as believers, doesn't it make sense to look at life and money from His perspective...from God's prism? **Look at verse 11.**

1 Chronicles 29:11

¹¹ 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. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.

ALL? That means everything! And the "heavens and earth" means everywhere! Listen, God's name is on the title deed of the universe...



Might we be reminded of the very first words in the Bible:

Genesis 1:1-3

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Isaiah the prophet said this...

Isaiah 44:24-25

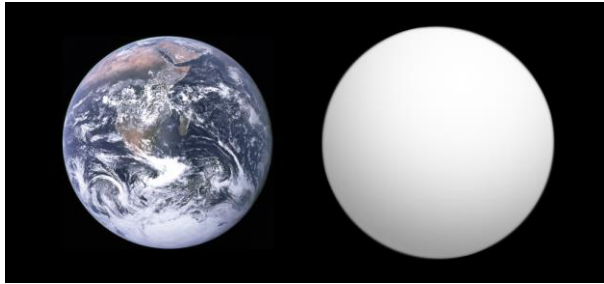
²⁴ Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, ²⁵ who frustrates the signs of liars and makes fools of diviners, who turns wise men back and makes their knowledge foolish.

Church family, God alone stretched out the heavens! Listen, do you understand just how large the heavens...the universe really is? See this picture...that's us in earth in the Milky Way...



Did you know Scientists can't honestly tell us that they know where the end of the universe is? They try...they make guesses...but, they don't know for sure because no one has ever been to the edge of the universe. However, here's the latest estimation by NASA: They calculate the distance between the Earth and the edge of the universe is 46 billion light-years or 14 billion parsecs.

Listen, this is astounding...it takes a little under 20,000 years, to travel just 1 light-year. Let's say that you want to travel to the planet Kepler 438b, (here it is in comparison to the earth):



It's a planet that is 470 light-years away. It's found in the constellation: Lyra, which we can see with the naked eye in the night sky. See the picture...

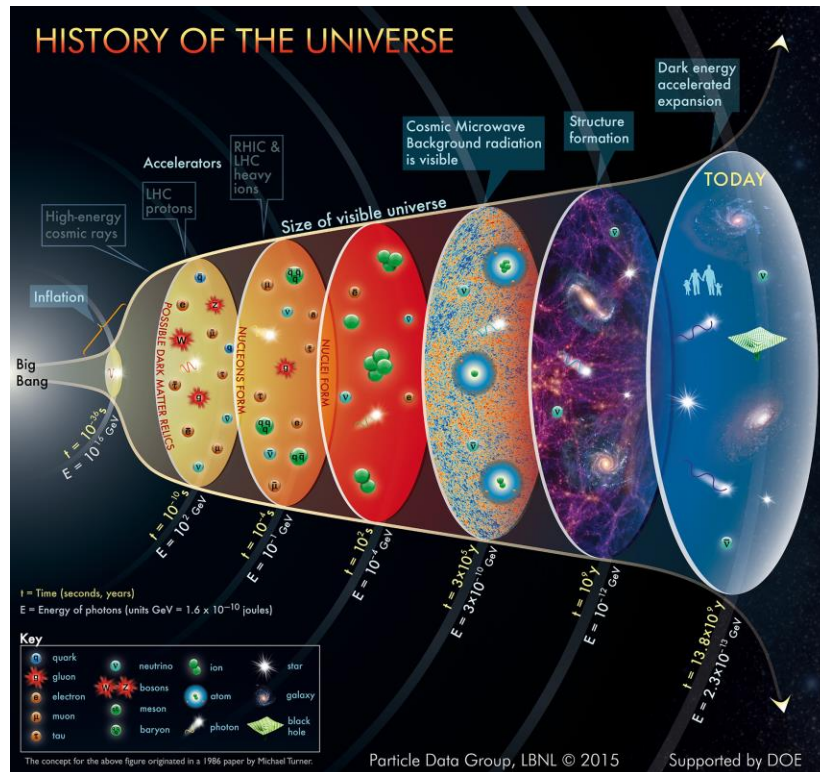


Lyra is visible directly overhead in our northern hemisphere from spring through autumn. Now get this...in the fastest spaceprob made by man (New Horizons spaceprob), which travels at 36,000 mph...it would take you about 2 million years to reach Kepler 438b. Okay...that's for just 470 light years. Are you listening? AGAIN, NASA says the edge of the universe is 46 billion light years away. Kepler...470 light years away...2 million years for us to get to it. The edge of the universe (they think)...46 billion light years away. Church, do you understand, there is no way to conceive the vastness of the universe and the power of God! **See it again...**

Isaiah 44:24-25

²⁴ Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, ²⁵ who frustrates the signs of liars and makes fools of diviners, who turns wise men back and makes their knowledge foolish.

Of course the wise men of this age say this is how the universe started...



See it. A Big Bang that led to High-energy cosmic rays and microwave background radiation and dark energy expansion that took us from goo to you! You got all that? You got your mind wrapped around that hocus-pocus?

It is God who made us and all there is! Listen, and what is more, the God of the universe who made the heavens and the earth stepped into the universe and became one of us, here on earth, so that we could know Him. Do you understand, because Jesus lived and died and rose from the dead, that proves God exists and that God is our Creator! Jesus is God...remember...

John 1:1-3

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Don't forget what we've learned in our study of the Book of the Revelation...one day we'll be worshipping Jesus at the throne in heaven...casting down our crowns before Him. Why? Because everything that exists belongs to Him...it's all His...and every knee will bow before Him...

Colossians 1:15-17

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Listen, Jesus holds everything together. He holds us on this earth by the gravity that He uses to keep us from spinning off the globe. Listen, if Jesus were to remove His hand off this universe, everything would fly off into oblivion. Jesus is giving you and me our next breath. Jesus is allowing our heart to pump blood to our brains to think our next thought.

Oh, Church Family, God's name is on the Title Deed of the Universe... God is the owner and we are simply STEWARDS for a brief period of time.

I want you to think about your house right now. Do you own it or are you like me and will be making payments on it a long time? I want you to imagine making the last payment on your house. Wouldn't that be great! Listen, you still don't own it. It's God's...because it sits on His earth. Understand that...the day we make our last payment, God still owns and the dirt it sits on.

1 Corinthians 10:26

²⁶ For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof."

God owns the earth and everything on it and He owns every beast, every animal...

Psalms 50:10

¹⁰ For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.

Haggai 2:8 says even the silver is God's. Listen, if you're saved...you're His too. Why? Because you are bought at a price!

1 Corinthians 6:19b-20,

You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Listen, there is not a single square inch of the universe that God doesn't look at and say, "That is mine..." He looks at you and me and says, "You are mine..." He looks at everything and says, "That is mine." King David knew that...

1 Chronicles 29:12-13

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. ¹³ And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

It reminds me of the song: "This is My Father's World..." Here's the first stanza:

**This is my father's world
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres**

Church, I'm not telling us things we don't know this morning...I'm just reminding us that God owns it all...and we're just His stewards. Are you okay with that? **Now, does that bother anyone?** It shouldn't. Why? Because if God owns it all...and He owns you and me...then we can trust Him as our Heavenly Father that He will take care of us and provide for us. After all Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount:

Matthew 6:33

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Yes, God loves us and provides for us. Aren't you glad? But, you may be here today and say, "Well I don't like the fact that God owns everything...I actually own my stuff." Well, I get that...you might not like it when it's all going good...when it starts going bad...hard times come to us all...it rains on the just and the unjust...well, that's when we want Him to be the One in control. That's when we cry out: "Help me Lord...I need you Lord!" That's when we're glad He's in control! And that's why Jesus said (also in the Sermon on the Mount):

Matthew 7:11

¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him.

Oh we can trust God! And this is what King David knew. He knew that God owned it all and that it was a privilege to give to Him and serve Him... See it in verse 14:

1 Chronicles 29:14

¹⁴ "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you."

But...I know, I know we like owning stuff, don't we? We like title deeds...



We like owning cars, houses, boats, stuff. We like owning stuff...we don't really like giving stuff away. We like owning stuff! But, if do give to the Kingdom of God, then we'll be blessed... It works like this... It's called: KINGDOM GIVING.



You and I can keep what we have here and there will be little blessing. But, if we trust God and give...using FAITH...there will be GREAT BLESSING in eternity. After all, the Bible says:

1 Timothy 6:7

⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

Let me ask you this...have you ever heard of Willie Stokes?



That's Willie on the right in the burgundy hat. He lived in Chicago in the 80's and he was a big-time gambler and part of the Chicago mob. He was murdered in 1986...and get this...at his funeral...his family propped him in a coffin



made into a replica of a Cadillac Seville. It had working headlights...and ole Willies was propped up...sitting at the steering wheel in a hot pink suit with 5 \$100 bills pressed into his hand. Hey folks...that's foolish...because you can't be any poorer than dead! **Even Colonel Sanders said, "There ain't no reason to be the richest man in the cemetery 'cause you can't do no business from there." Folks, you can't take it with you!**

But I know, you might say, "Well, Pastor Kevin, I'm a self-made man or woman! I've earned what I've got and I've worked all my life to get it." Well, I understand that. But, Deut. 8:18 says:

Deuteronomy 8:18a

¹⁸ You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth.

Listen, It's the Lord who gives you and me the ability to take the next breath. We are so blessed to be alive. And it's God who has allowed us to manage what we have for His glory. Let me ask you this: Whose going to own your stuff 150 years from now? You have no idea and neither do I! **And yet, we fret and worry about the stuff of this earth** and about what we own. What happens to all our stuff? Yes, it's turned over to someone else to manage. Yes, stuff stays in circulation, as long as it lasts, but new people manage it.

The truth is...we need to do some of this...so that we can have eternal rewards...



Jesus said this...

Matthew 6:19-21

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

It's been said that we should organize our lives so that God can spend us! I don't know about you...but one day I want to hear Jesus say, "Well done good and faithful servant." The great missionary Jim Elliot said: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Listen, this is profound: you and I **get to keep what we give back to God**. In other words, what we send on ahead is eternal... See it one more time...



When you give to the Kingdom of God, God stamps it: "ETERNAL" the rest can only be used here and now. King David understood this... And he knew this life goes by in a flash... Why...

1 Chronicles 29:15-16

¹⁵ For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. ¹⁶ O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.

Listen church family and we'll be done. Only two things are eternal: #1 the Word of God...it will never pass away...and #2 the souls of human beings. And that's why I give to this church and the work of the Lord here. And it's not just because I'm a pastor here. I've been giving to this church for close to 40 years. I give to the work of the Lord here because this is where He's planted me and I'm an old business guy and I'm looking for the best...ROI.



Return on Investment. You see, what we do here...in and through this church is eternal...lives are being saved through what we do here each week...through FFL and Soccer, Trunk or Treat and what we'll do at Christmas, the Passion Play, and all the mission work...from the trips we take to all the missionaries we support. And lives are being brought into the kingdom and that's eternal, folks! And I don't want to waste the resources the Lord has blessed me with by letting them slip my fingers because I'm greedy.

So...I'll ask one last time...



Whose name is in your Title Deed? I pray it is God. Because you see, the truth is there is a fundamental connection between our spiritual lives and how we handle money. Like the school teacher...when we turn our welfare and our money over to the Lord, there is a peace that passes all understanding that guards our hearts and minds and we can rest in Him to provide for us because He is in control of the universe...and He knows where it ends!!

Will you trust Him today? Oh, He won't let you down...He owns it all... Trust Him...seek His kingdom FIRST and everything you need, will be added to you.
