



1

**When they are beyond being just a kid, beyond a little rascal, beyond a bit unruly, beyond a prickly urchin, to an unholy terror . . . a spoiled brat . . .**

**-- that's when many of us want to do something to help their parents out,**

**-- or we're praying that we would be able to figure out what to do with our own kids.**

**-- BUT happens when the little snot turns around and the face that you see is your OWN!**

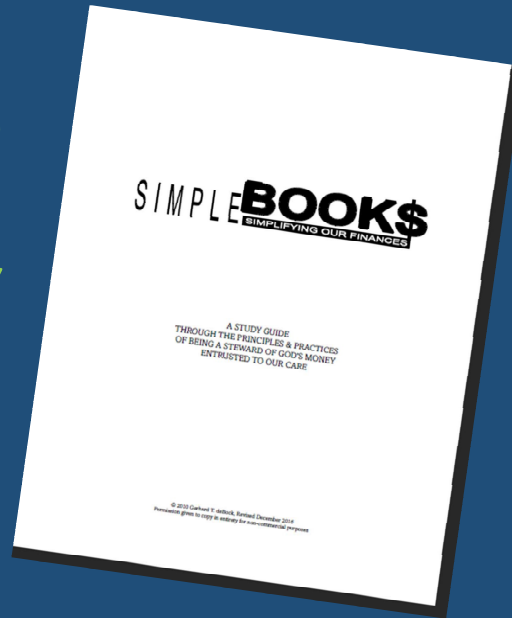
**-- Again and again, God gives us those moments that take us aback . . . I call them "Ah-ha moments" when we see ourselves with rare clarity and honesty.**

**--When God pulls back the curtains on our hearts.**

- There is something that virtually all of us handle everyday that God uses to reveal the state of our heart and the state of our union with Him.
- And that's money and the things money buys.
- Whether wealthy or poor, all of us can fall into childishness when it comes to how we handle money.

TR: As I promised a few months ago, these next four weeks we want to make sure we are not being little boogers when it comes this practical "daily" of life.

**BE SURE TO DO  
YOUR OWN  
COMPLETE STUDY  
THROUGH THE  
STUDY GUIDE**

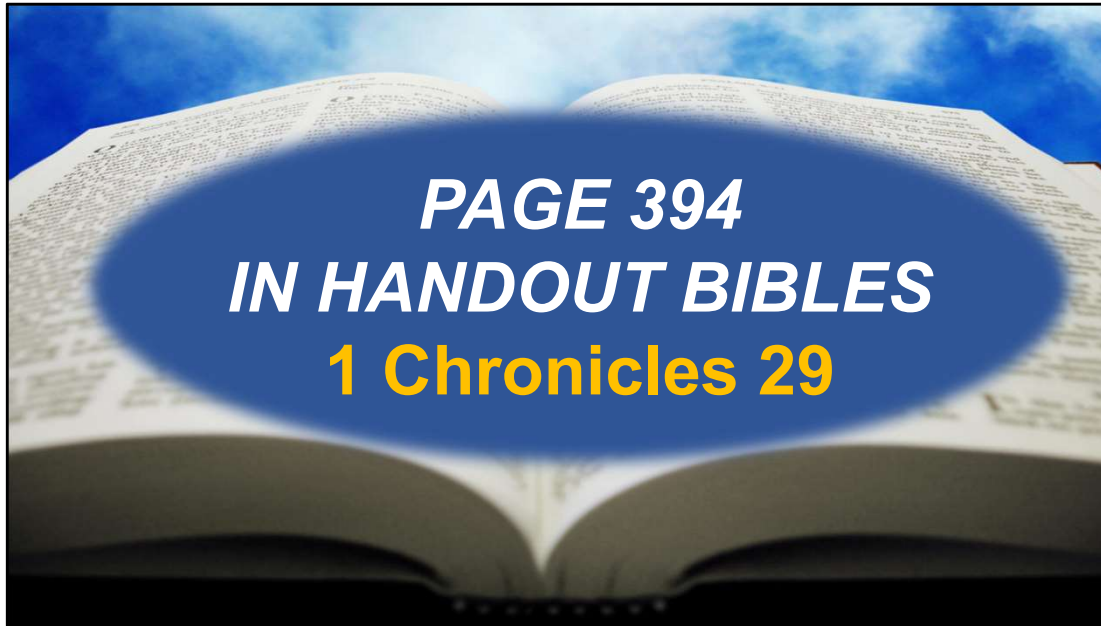


2

**The Sunday messages will correspond to the highlights of the SimpleBOOK\$ study we made available by the exit doors.**

**-- I hope all will work through a principle and a practice each week.**

**TR: Let's grab our sermon notes and our Bibles**



3

**Handout Bibles**

**TR: There are many ways we can act childish . . .**

**CHILDISHNESS** says things like . . .

4

. . . but I want us to think specifically about the way we handle money.

TR: Childishness says things like . . .

**CHILDISHNESS** says things like . . .

*"It's mine!"*

5

**"It's mine!"**

**TR: How exhausting it is to be a parent or teacher or baby-sitter when . . .**



6

... like an incessant air raid siren we hear repeated shrill demand of, "Let go .  
.. it's mine and you can't have it!"

TR: Childishness seems a bit tamer when it says things like ...



**CHILDISHNESS** says things like . . .

***“It’s mine!”***

***“You can have a little, but the rest  
is MINE!”***

7

**READ SLIDE**

-- Forced by parents or others with power, the kids sort of share but as little as will placate. They will give but only what is demanded.

TR: Childishness says things like . . .



**CHILDISHNESS** says things like . . .

***“It’s mine!”***

***“You can have a little, but the rest  
is MINE!”***

***“What I do with what’s mine is  
nobody’s business!”***

8

#### **READ SLIDE**

-- This can be seen in little kids and even teens as they demand their rights to do in THEIR room whatever they want.

TR: But remember, the brat that turned around had our face . . . they is us!  
I’ve seen this on T-shirts and posters . . .

**MY LIFE.  
MY CHOICES.  
MY MISTAKES.  
MY LESSONS.  
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.**

9

**READ SLIDE**

- Childishness may just say, “MINE!” But even adults can act bratty when they act like they are an island to themselves.
- Many who have made it to chronological adulthood still have a rebellious independence streak.
- Most of us grimace when we see and hear an unholy terror seated behind us on a plane . . . but perhaps we haven’t had the Ah-ha yet . .
- . . . to see that maybe how God the Father sees us.

**TR: The good news is that our Good, Good Father corrects us . . .**

**CHILDISHNESS** says things like . . .

but through **CORRECTION** by God's  
Spirit through His Word . . .

10

. . . by His Spirit through His Word.

**TR: Consider the following passages as you think back to what Childishness says.**

**“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. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. 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.”**

ESV

11

**The claim of MINE! OR of being a self-made man or woman OR of deserving what we have . . . doesn't reflect King David's heart when he prepared to build the Temple . . . READ SLIDE**

**-- He even recognized that any generosity on his part was because of what God had given him.**

**-- EX: Giving a child money to buy their parents a present . . . and they spend most of it on candy.**

**TR: Job went through many trials. He went from great wealth to abject poverty. He learned . . .**

Who has first given to me,  
that I should repay him?  
Whatever is under the whole heaven  
is mine.

ESV

12

. . . about his rightful place when he heard God say . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Correction says . . .

**CORRECTION**

CHURCHINESS says things like . . .

*"It's mine!"* **No, it's HIS**

*"You can have a little, but the rest  
is MINE!"*

*"What I do with what's mine is  
nobody's business!"*

13

**"It's NOT mine. It is HIS.**

**TR: This is the most foundational concept in handling our money and possessions biblically.**

## **“A Servant and HIS Money”**

**That's why this series is entitled . . . READ SLIDE  
-- We are managers, stewards of God's money.**

**TR: Some of us had an ah-ha moment when we learned what the Bible says about tithing.**



Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

ESV

15

Like in Malachi 3 . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 10 continues . . .

And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

ESV

## READ SLIDE

- In our study guide you will walk through the specifics of what the Bible teaches about tithing.
- I've come to understand that it is still the starting point for us today.
- First-fruits of the initial 10% of our incomes. Even before the paying off of debts because it is a debt to God and to not give it is to rob God.
- It is a huge ah-ha when people start to reorient their finances putting God first.

TR: But I said that we need to AGAIN AND AGAIN be corrected by Scripture . . . it is too easy to act like we can just give the 10% and the rest is ours.

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

ESV

17

In explaining a special offering, that I believe was over and above the tithe that would have supported the local church fellowship, the Corinthians were challenged to give to the poor in Jerusalem. Paul writes . . . READ SLIDE  
-- We may start with 10% but then we must go beyond even that to cheerful and sacrificial giving.

TR: Correction says . . .

**CORRECTION**

PHARISEES says things like . . .

*"It's mine!"* **No, it's HIS**

*"You can have a little, but the rest is MINE!"* **No, it's ALL HIS**

*"What I do with what's mine is nobody's business!"*

18

NOT . . . READ SLIDE . . . BUT . . . "IT'S ALL HIS"

-- The Pharisees thought they were mature but they were anything but . . .  
-- . . . they may have been careful to tithe but they needed another ah-ha moment to see God wanted them to be good managers of ALL HIS money entrusted to them.

TR: Our spirit of independence that says . . . READ SLIDE . . . acts like we will not be held accountable for what we do with (HIS) God's money.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

ESV

Passages like 1 Corinthians 3 make clear that there will be an accounting . . . not just of our tithes, but of all God has entrusted to us in terms of possessions and wealth . . .

-- AND also in terms of gifts and skills.

-- And that there will be loss and profits based on how we as servants handle HIS money.

-- READ SLIDE

-- Don't mistake the accounting terms like loss and profit to mean that we earn salvation . . . it is a gift received only one way, with the empty hands of faith.

**TR: Verse 12 . . .**

19

**1 Corinthians 3:12-13**

Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

*ESV*

20

**But that doesn't mean what we do after being saved doesn't matter . . . READ SLIDE**

**TR: Verse 14**



If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

ESV

**READ SLIDE**

- Even as those of us who have learned a measure of self-control and how to delay gratification can wince when someone squanders a windfall that could have set their family up for life . .
- So those in heaven must wince when they see us squandering our eternal rewards in order to enjoy this life . . . seizing the day but dropping eternity.

TR: Correction says . . .

## **CORRECTION**

CHRISTIANITY says things like . . .

*"It's mine!"* **No, it's HIS**

*"You can have a little, but the rest is MINE!"* **No, it's ALL HIS**

*"What I do with what's mine is nobody's business!"*  
**No, we're accountable**

22

NOT . . . READ SLIDE . . . BUT . . . WE'RE ACCOUNTABLE.

-- This correction is why it is very hard to be wealthy . . . to whom much is given, much will be required.

-- The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. We cannot love God and money. AGAIN AND AGAIN we need to kill the greed in our hearts that is really idolatry.

TR: How good it is of God to correct us . . .

**CHILDISHNESS** says things like . . .

but through **CORRECTION** by God's  
Spirit through His Word . . .

we can become **CHILDLIKE**, exalting  
our Heavenly Father, by . . .

. . . but we are not merely to grow up and become mature . . . we must  
become **CHILDLIKE**.

-- Jesus told us that we had to become like one of these little ones if we are to  
enter the kingdom.

-- The contrast is between childish and childlike . . .

**TR:** Childlike trust finds that Jesus' words never grow old when He said . . .

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, **and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.** Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

ESV

24

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: Verse 28**

**Matthew 6:28-30**

And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

*ESV*

25

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: Verse 31**

**Matthew 6:31-34**

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and **your heavenly Father knows** that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

*ESV*

26

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: If we will accept God's correction . . . if we are open to those ah-ha moments . . . then we can become childlike, not childish little boors**

we can become **CHILDLIKE**, exalting our Heavenly Father, by . . .

*moving from “anxious **worry**” to “restful **trust**”*

27

#### READ SLIDE

- Jesus' words . . . don't be anxious.
- EX: Growing up without lots of worldly possessions . . . but as a kid never worrying about anything.
- It is impossible to please God without faith . . . trust . . . if we do not believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him. Key is TRUST.
- What a relief to not be the one ultimately in charge of providing . . . what a joy to move from MINE! and the worry about not losing what I think is MINE!

TR: Yes, we must honor God with the tithe but we don't want to be childish and do as little as we possibly can.



we can become **CHILDLIKE**, exalting our Heavenly Father, by . . .

*moving from “anxious worry” to “restful trust”*

*changing from “legalistic **calculation**” to whole-hearted **abandon**”*

28

We want to change from . . . READ SLIDE

- EX: Telling people to give 9.8 or 10.2 . . . just to make them slow down and really ask God what He wants done with HIS money.
- Perhaps like John Wesley or LeTournneau . . . God will make it clear that we can live off 10% and give away 90%.
- When it is all God's . . . we can sigh and delight with whole-hearted abandon that the church is His, the car, the house, the retirement account, etc.
- If we act like un-expected money is our “mad money” instead of God's provision . . . perhaps God is giving us a turn-around moment . . . an ah-ha.

**TR: When we heed the Spirit's correction we can leave behind childishness  
and become childlike, growing . . .**

**28**

we can become **CHILDLIKE**, exalting our Heavenly Father, by . . .

*moving from “anxious worry” to “restful trust”*

*changing from “legalistic calculation” to whole-hearted abandon”*

*growing from “rebellious **independence**” to a graciously “**accountable** servanthood”*

29

. . . from . . . READ SLIDE

-- If we won't even let anyone ask us the hard questions about our budgets and money . . . we may have a rebellious independence streak.

-- If we won't let ourselves be held accountable to a budget and basic accounting that records all we spend . . . this could be an ah-ha moment for us.

TR: Accountable servanthood remembers . . .

## **“A Servant and HIS Money”**

**. . . that we are servants and God is the Master. It ALL belongs to Him and we are accountable for how we handle it.**

**-- We begin with a tithe, the first-fruits that symbolically declares that all we have belongs to Him,**

**-- even as keeping the Sabbath was a way to say that all of our days belonged to God.**

**When you think about how you handle money and possessions . . .**

**-- are you ever childish? Do you actions sneer, “MINE!” “Mind your own business!”**

**-- And even if we’ve started to honor God with the tithe, have we slipped into**

**thinking that makes us especially generous . . . giving God what is already His.**

**-- Has God given us 10 bananas and we give Him one but then <sup>30</sup>squeeze the rest in our grubby little hands?**

**TR: Is God trying to help us be taken aback? Is He giving us a chance to have an ah-ha moment? Is He giving us a dream of a childish little brat only to have them turn around and see yourself?**



31

**My friend's story . . . driving behind slow driver and laying on the horn . . . his wife asked, "What are you doing?" And in that moment he said, "I don't know."**

**-- He had been under such pressure from the ministry and life that something slowly changed in his heart.**

**-- This patient, loving, gracious man suddenly became the childish horn blaster.**

**-- It was an ah-ha moment. Let us pray that God AGAIN and AGAIN gives us these moments . . . especially as servants who handle HIS money.**

**Prayer . . . transition to communion, rejoicing in the one foundation of Christ**

**and that with Christ God has given us everything we need for life and  
godliness.**

**Remembering that we are His kids . . . coming to the table knowing we don't  
need to be anxious . . . our good, good Father knows what we need.**