



Creator of Heaven and Earth



In the beginning
GOD created
the heavens and
the earth.

Gen. 1:1

The Christian World View

The very **first** thing the Bible establishes about God is that He is the Creator of heaven and earth (Gen. 1:1), and this forms the foundation for everything else the Bible says about Him, about who we are, and about how we should relate to Him.

The Christian World View

Second, since God is the only and exclusive Creator, He is at the same time the rightful owner. Within this world view, all creatures are expected to perceive themselves and their possessions as belonging to God, the Creator.



“All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

John 1:3

NKJV





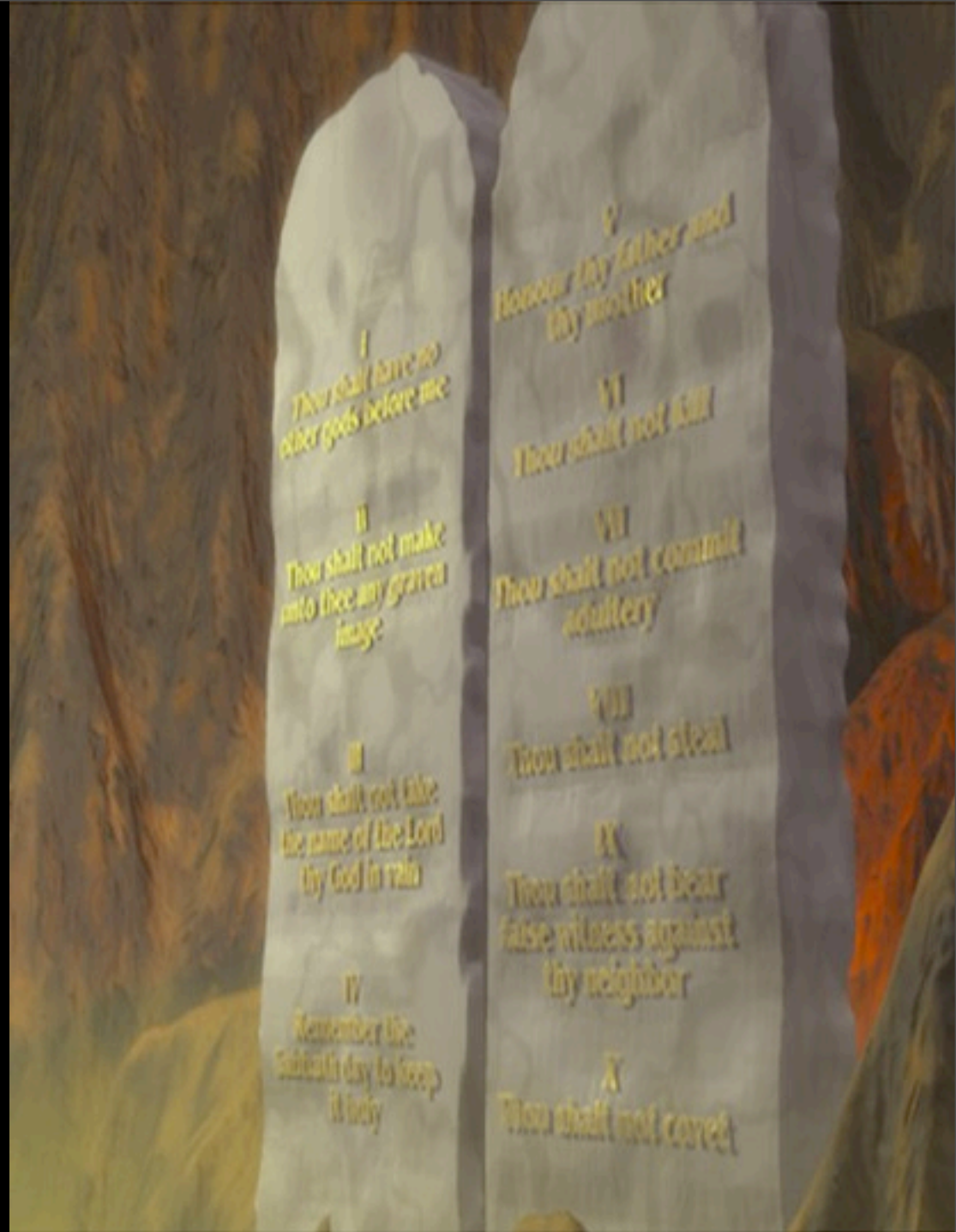








“For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”
Exodus 20:11 NKJV





David said, “I will lift up mine eyes to the hills—
from whence comes my help? My help comes
from **the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**”

Psalm 121:1, 2 NKJV



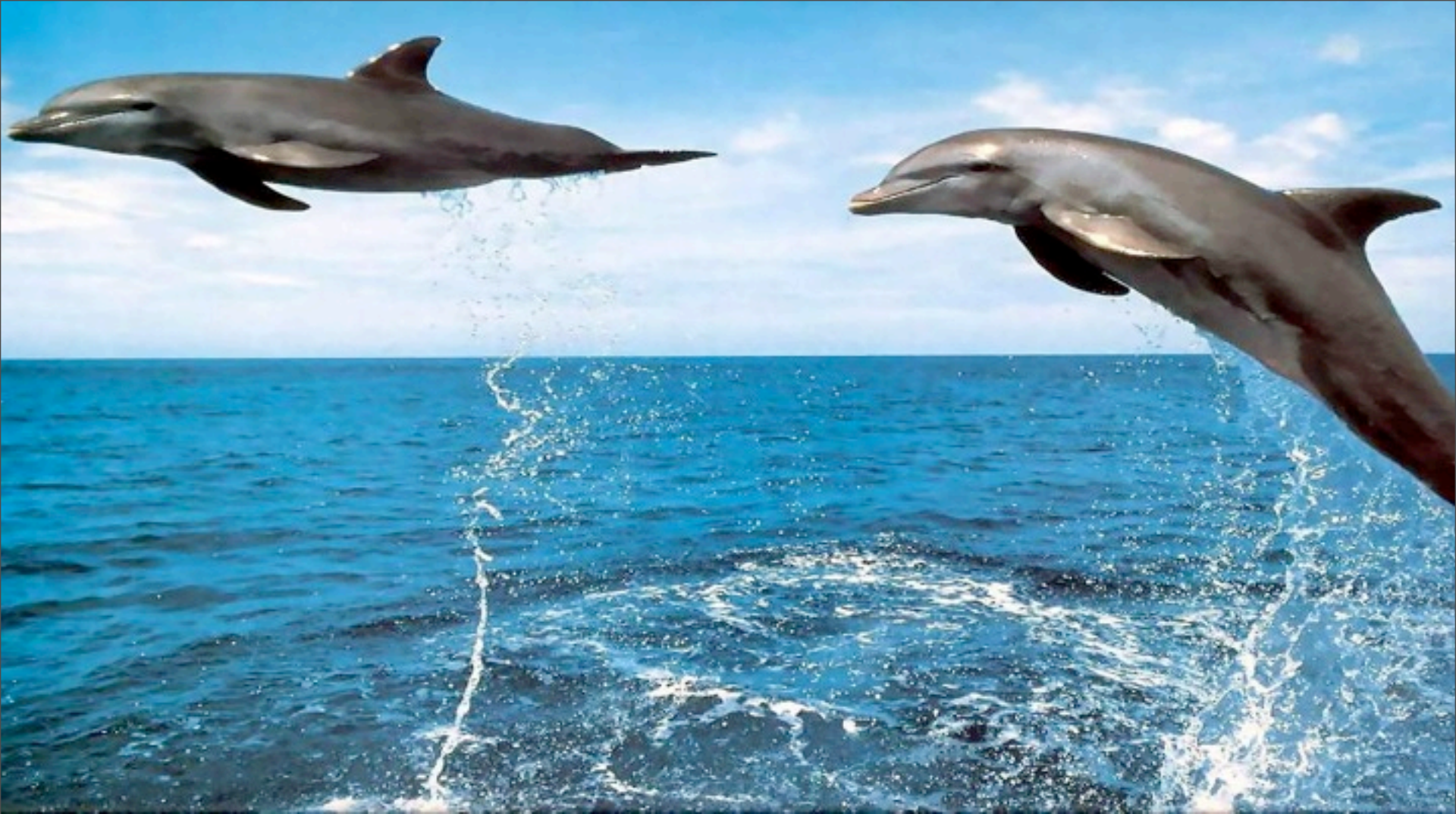
For behold **I create new heavens and a new earth**; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.
Isaiah 65:17 NKJV

Nevertheless we, **according to His promise look for new heavens and a new earth** in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:13 NKJV



Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth – to every nation, tribe, tongue and people – saying with a loud voice, **“Fear God and give glory to him, for the hour of His judgment is come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”**

Revelation 14:6, 7 NKJV



The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness.
The world and those who dwell therein.

Ps. 24:1



“If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine, and all its fullness.” Ps. 50:12



Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You. 1 Chron. 29:13, 14



Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever
thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from
everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. Ps. 90:2

In light of God's ownership, how should we order our lives???

We must recognize that we brought nothing into this world and we are taking nothing out. We are simply stewards or managers of God's property.

Paul's counsel to young Timothy:

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”

1 Timothy 6:6, 7 NKJV

The Sermon on the Mount

Jesus' famous mountainside sermon
– Matthew 5,6 and 7

At the heart of this sermon are the
principles regarding money
management.

Jesus' Counsel Regarding Storing Treasure

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.” Matthew 6:19 NKJV

“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

Matthew 6:20 NKJV

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21 NKJV



When the rich young ruler asked Jesus what he must do to gain eternal life, Jesus said, “go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.” (Matthew 19, Mark 10, Luke 18)

Think About It

Do you follow what Jesus taught about storing up treasure in heaven or are you like the rich young ruler???

When we help others,
we store up treasure in heaven.

With a brief overview of these texts,
an amazing truth emerges:

**It's true that you can't take it with you, but
you can send it on ahead!**

The Dot and the Line

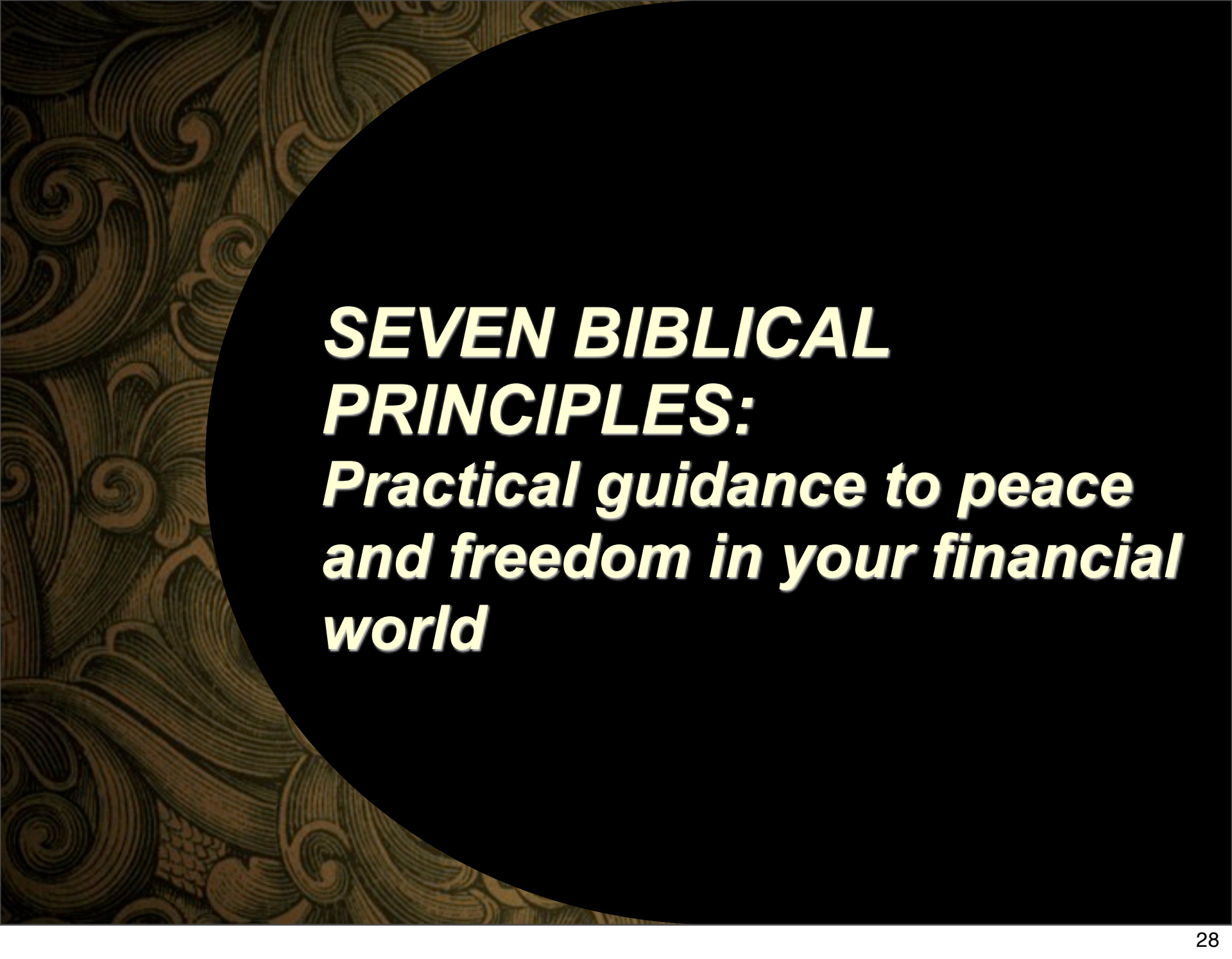
In the light of time and eternity, how long a space is your life?



Money has great value,
because it can do great
good... But money is of no
more value than sand, only
as it is put to use in
providing for the necessities
of life, in blessing others,
and advancing the cause of
Christ.

(COL 351)





***SEVEN BIBLICAL
PRINCIPLES:
Practical guidance to peace
and freedom in your financial
world***

1. God is Owner of everything.

Psalm 24:1

Psalm 50:12

1 Chronicles 29:13, 14

Proverbs 3:5-10





2. We are managers of what God has given us.

1 Timothy 6:7

Matthew 25:14

1 Corinthians 4:1, 2

3. Our purpose in life is to glorify God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Matthew 5:16

**4. Prosperity is having what
you need when you need it.**

Philippians 4:19

Matthew 28:20

Isaiah 26:3

5. Debt is bad.

Proverbs 22:7

Deuteronomy 28:15-68

Romans 13:8

6. The Tithe is the minimum testimony of our Christian commitment.

Genesis 14:20

Genesis 28:20-22

Malachi 3:6-11

**7. We must all give an account
to God of our stewardship.**

Matthew 25:19

2 Corinthians 5:10

Revelation 22:12




“After a long time
the lord of those
servants came
and settled
accounts with
them.”

Matthew 25:19


To the faithful servants he said, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.”

The words, “**Well done**” are only spoken to those who manage their money in a Christian way!



“When Christ's followers give back to the Lord His own, they are accumulating treasure which will be given to them when they shall hear the words, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.’”

The Desire of Ages, p. 523



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Giving Principles

1. We do not give because we have too much. We give in response to experienced grace and in thanksgiving for God's blessings.
2. We give to the things that we believe will advance the cause of God.
3. Christians understand that since God is the rightful owner of everything, when they are finished with the resources, they return them to God by helping others or making contributions to advance the cause of God.



“It should be our highest aim in life
to get ready for heaven.”

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Biblical Examples

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- 1. Remember Lot's wife
Gen. 13-19; PP, ch. 14**

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- 4. A yuppie considers heaven**

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5. Ananias and Sapphira Acts 4,5; AA 75,76

Everyone is to be his own assessor and is left to give as he purposes in his heart. But there are those who are guilty of the same sin as Ananias and Sapphira, thinking that if they withhold a portion of what God claims in the tithing system the brethren will never know it. Thus thought the guilty couple whose example is given us as a warning.”

4T 469

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- 7. Greater riches
Heb. 11:24-26**

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Heb. 11:9, 10; Gen. 12-15**
- 7. Greater riches
Heb. 11:24-26**
- 8. The tax collector chooses God
Luke 19:1-10**

The greatest praise that men can bring to God is to become consecrated channels through whom He can work. Time is rapidly passing into eternity. Let us not keep back from God that which is His own. **Let us not refuse Him that which, though it cannot be given with merit, cannot be denied without ruin.** He asks for a whole heart; give it to Him; it is His, both by creation and by redemption. He asks for your intellect; give it to Him; it is His. He asks for your money; give it to Him; it is His. "Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price." 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20. AA 566

A great work must be done all through the world, and let no one conclude that, because the end is near, there is no need of special effort to build up the various institutions as the cause shall demand.

When the Lord shall bid us to make no further effort to build meetinghouses and establish schools, sanitariums, and publishing institutions, it will be time for us to fold our hands and let the Lord close up the work; but now is our opportunity to show our zeal for God and our love for humanity.

Use your means to create, rather than your influence to diminish, agencies for good... Since the Lord is soon to come, act decidedly and determinedly to increase the facilities, that a great work may be done in a short time.

6T 440-441

Since the Lord is soon coming, it is time to put out our money to the exchangers, time to put every dollar we can spare into the Lord's treasury, that institutions may be established for the education of workers, who shall be instructed as were those in the schools of the prophets. If the Lord comes and finds you doing this work, He will say: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant:...enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

6T 440-441

The most difficult sermon to preach and the hardest to practice is self-denial.

CS 29

My goal as a committed Christian is to take what God has given me in time, talents, body temple, and my treasure, and trade with it until He comes with the perspective of bringing profit to His kingdom.

www.adventiststewardship.org