

7. Be generous.

Paul encouraged Christians to be generous and wrote that giving also benefits the giver.

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God.

- 1 Corinthians 9:7, 8, 11a

8. Be content with what you have.

Paul also wrote that whatever situation we may be in, financially and otherwise, Christ will give us the strength to deal with it.

For I have learned the secret to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

- Philippians 4:11-13

9. Seek first the Kingdom of Heaven.

As Christians, our first priority is to be our relationship with Christ, not our everyday concerns. Keep your focus on Christ because that is what is eternally important.

Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

- Ecclesiastes 12:13b

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- Matthew 6: 33



It is true that money is dangerous, and we humans are weak and imperfect. It is also true that because of our imperfections it is *impossible* for us to attain salvation and eternal life in Heaven. But despite this, there can be a happy ending. Because after Jesus' parable about the rich young man and after his warnings to the disciples, he said this,

"For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

- Matthew 19:26

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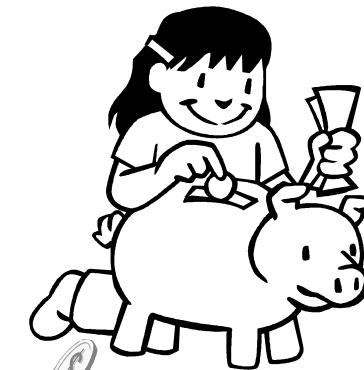
Katie is a busy teenager in her final year of high school at the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute. She is very involved in music (having studied the cello for 13 years) and various school activities (including soccer and drama). She grew up in a Christian home (her dad is a Lutheran Pastor) and is an active member of her church in Outlook, SK.

All bible quotations were taken from the New Revised Standard Version (1990, Augsburg Fortress) or the Contemporary English Version (1995, American Bible Society)

Money Matters



Where is God in my wealth?



Then someone came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, what good must I do to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "...If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments."

...The young man said to him, "I have kept all these; what do I still lack?" Jesus answered, "If you wish to be perfect go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come and follow me." When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

- Matthew 19: 16, 17b, 20-24



Here at this school, in this community, in this country, we are indeed rich. However we often don't realize how fortunate we are. In our society we see so many examples of mind-boggling wealth, held up as great achievements, that we feel very insignificant about our own finances. But the truth is: we are wealthy people. We, as Canadians are among the richest people of the world, all of us.

Imagine how you would react if you were told to sell everything you own. We would all probably respond in a similar manner as the rich young man in the bible passage above, because we would realize that we have many possessions and we are very attached to them.

1 Timothy 6:10 says, "For the love of money is the root of all types of evil." In terms of our Christian faith, money is not a good thing. Granted, money can be used for good things, with the help of Christ, but money by itself is the Devil's tool to tempt us and damage our relationship with God.



So the question is raised; if we don't want our wealth to destroy our faith what do we do with it? The bible is a great source of guidance, even for our budgets. It offers these tips (among many others):

1. Your money is not your own.

The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it.

- Psalm 24:1

You don't own anything because you have earned it. You own it because God has allowed you to have it. In a sense, you are a manager of God's possessions. This is called stewardship. Being a good steward means relinquishing control of your wealth to God, asking him to show you what to do with it, and then doing that.

2. Money will not make you happy.

Money will ultimately fail to provide satisfaction. true joy comes from faith in Christ.

Your faith [is] of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire. Though you have not seen [Christ], you love him... you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy...

- 1 Peter 1:7a-8

3. Money is not what is really important.

Jesus warns that on Earth, your possessions will not last forever. They are always at risk of being stolen or destroyed. So rather than obsessing over them, which is futile, build up your faith and your commitment to Christ and you will have eternal treasures.

...instead, store up your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy them, and thieves cannot break in and steal them.

-Matthew 6:20

4. Do not put your trust in money.

Jesus tells a story (in Luke 12) about a rich man who felt smug because he was so rich, but even all his money couldn't save him the night that he died.

But God said to him [the rich man], 'You fool! Tonight you will die! Then who will get the things you have stored up?'

- Luke 12:20

Whoever trusts in his riches will fall.

- Proverbs 11:28

5. Don't make it your goal to be rich.

The apostle Paul warns us that when people focus too much on getting money, it can begin to dominate their lives and divert attention away from God.

But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

- 1 Timothy 6:9

6. Do not worry about money.

In his famous sermon on the mount, Jesus tells the listening crowd to trust God to provide for all of their needs.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear...your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

- Matthew 6:25 & 32b