IS MONEY THE PROBLEM?
GodFirst Sabbath
Dec. 1, 2018
John D. Rockefeller, Sr., one of the wealthiest men who ever lived, died and left everything.
“Money never made a man happy yet, nor will it. The more a man has, the more he wants. Instead of filling a vacuum, it makes one” – Benjamin Franklin
“Don’t tell me where your priorities are. Show me where you spend your money and I’ll tell you what they are.”
– James W. Frick
“Money...brings you food, but not appetite; medicine, but not health; acquaintance, but not friends; servants, but not loyalty; days of joy, but not peace or happiness.”

— Henrik Ibsen
“Money is only a tool. It will take you wherever you wish, but it will not replace you as the driver.” —Ayn Rand
“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”
— John Wesley
Is Money the Problem?
NO, MONEY IS NOT THE PROBLEM!
Money itself is the gift of God to men, to be used with fidelity in His service.

Counsels on Stewardship, p. 139
Part of the Problem is...

The Love of this world and the things in it.
The Love of Money

• Prevents the development of Christian Character. *Counsels on Stewardship, p. 22*

• Prevents the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the individual or the church. *Counsels on Stewardship, p. 52*

• It holds back the work of God. *Counsels on Stewardship, p. 554*

• It contributes to self-gratification. *Counsels on Stewardship, p. 289*
“I saw that God could rain means from heaven to carry on his work, but he never would do this. It is contrary to his plan. He has entrusted men on earth with sufficient means to carry forward his work, and if all do their duty there will be no lack.”

2 Spiritual Gifts 267.2
God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7
The Real Problem is SELFISHNESS
Satan says, “Go, make the possessors of lands and money drunk with the cares of this life. Present the world before them in its most attractive light, that they may lay up their treasure here, and fix
their affections upon earthly things. Make them care more for money than for the upbuilding of Christ’s kingdom and the spread of the truths
“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves

(Matthew 6:19-21, NKJV).
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treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”
“God has blessed us with prosperity, .... We have been bought with a price.... Have we forgotten that infinite price paid for our redemption? Is gratitude dead in the heart?

Counsels on Stewardship, p. 20
The money we handle is the Lord’s. God is the bountiful Giver of all good things.
Money can be a problem.
Money is a symbol of comfort and status.
“There are only two places in the universe where we can place our treasures - in God’s storehouse or in Satan’s; and all that is not devoted to God’s service is counted on Satan’s side, and goes to strengthen his cause.”

Counsels on Stewardship, p. 35
MONEY IS NOT THE PROBLEM!
“...there is means enough in the hands of believers to amply sustain the work in all its departments without embarrassing any, if all would bear their proportional part.”

Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 3, p. 410
“And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” says the Lord of hosts; “And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,” says the Lord of hosts.”
Decision Time

The Lord suggests us to give proportionally on tithes and offerings. Have you already decided a percentage to set apart as offerings? If you have not yet decided, you may decide now.
Commitment Ceremony

GOD FIRST

I PROMISE:

To SET APART the first moments of each day to commune with the Lord through PRAYER, the STUDY of the Bible, Spirit of Prophecy and the Sabbath School lesson, and in FAMILY WORSHIP.

To IMPROVE my RELATIONSHIPS: growing in faithfulness, forgiveness and loving by principle.

To ESTABLISH one new HEALTHY HABIT, to better serve the Lord with my mind:

To OFFER one day (or evening) each week to WORK for God, spreading the good news to others through Bible Studies, small groups, etc. (TMI).

To KEEP the SABBATH, preparing for it accordingly on Friday, keeping its limits, right thoughts and activities.

To FAITHFULLY RETURN the Lord’s TITHE (10% of my income).

To DEDICATE a percentage (___ %) of my income as a regular OFFERING to the Lord.

WITH GOD’S HELP: ________________________ DATE: ________________________

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES
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To IMPROVE my RELATIONSHIPS: growing in faithfulness, forgiveness and loving by principle.
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To **OFFER** one day (or evening) each week to **WORK** for God, spreading the good news to others through Bible Studies, small groups, etc. (TMI).

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**WITH GOD’S HELP:** ___________________________  **DATE:** ___________________________
Will you trust God today?