

## Lesson 2 – Earning Money

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**Introduction:** The Lord expects every man to provide for himself and his home.

- A. God’s word directs man to work and earn a living. Work is honorable.
  - 1. God described creation as His “work.” (**Gen 2:2**)
  - 2. Before the fall man was involved with work that involved both physical labor and mental labor. (**Gen 2:15, 19-20**)
  - 3. Afterwards God showed the necessity of work and its difficulty. (**Gen 3:17-19**)
    - a. One of the consequences of Cain’s sin was a fruitless labor. (**Gen 4:12**)
    - b. After the flood the people acknowledged the difficulty of work.
- B. How did God’s Son spend the majority of His life? (**Mk 6:3**)
  - 1. He received training from His father and was with him in that work.
  - 2. Jesus was around 30 years old when He began to preach!
- C. Satan offers us many “alternatives” to work.

### ***I. How can we earn money in a way that pleases God?***

- A. God directs us to honest labor. (**Eph 4:28; 2 Thess 3:12; Lk 10:7**)
  - 1. We can work for another and receive wages.
  - 2. We can have our own business by the principle of exchange (Buying and Selling) (**Mt 13:44-45; Acts 16:14**)
  - 3. We can investing and receive a share of a business. (**Mt 25:27**)
    - a. Here we are not *taking from another* but rather *participating in the work* of others. Money can represent *previous work done* to earn that money.
    - b. These things are not arbitrary.
- B. We can honorably receive money by the principle of love. Something is given without expectation of return.
  - 1. We are to give to those in genuine need (**Eph 4:28; Acts 2:45, 11:29**)
  - 2. We can receive an inheritance. (**Lk 15:12**)
- C. It is wrong for one to receive from others when *we refuse to provide for ourselves* or already *have the resources to provide for ourselves!* (**2 Thess 3:7-12**)
  - 1. God’s wisdom demands that we *take the time to know what we are doing* according to His revealed will. (**1 Tim 5:3-4**)
  - 2. How does God define being needy? (**1 Tim 6:6-8**)
  - 3. How do unscrupulous people take advantage of those who do not investigate?
  - 4. Before a church *permanently* takes care of a widow there are “qualifications.” (**1 Tim 5:9-12**)
  - 5. We can commit sin by *giving some people help* or *seeking help* when we should not! We may well be helping some to buy drugs.
  - 6. Some will seek help from multiple sources and not reveal what they have.
  - 7. God does not wish for the one receiving help have it easy while the giver is bearing heavy burdens. (**2 Cor 8:13-15**)

### ***II. Dishonorable and dishonest ways of making money***

- A. There are many “short-cuts” that are presented to you to honest labor. (**Prov 10:16**)

1. You can take advantage of others without them ever knowing. You can rob people who will never know your name or see your face.
  2. You can do something that has the approval of government and is a common practice in the culture but it still is wrong! (**Ex 23:2**)
- B. Some common “short-cuts.”
1. By keeping something another lost. (**Ex 23:4**) (Ex. Emily and lost wallet)
  2. By making false promises and creating false expectations. (**Prov 11:18**)
  3. By intentionally lying about what you are selling.  
(**Job 31:6; Prov 16:11; Amos 8:4-6**)
  4. By failing to pay a just wage. (**Mal 3:5; James 5:1-4**)
  5. By charging exorbitant interest rates. (**Prov 22:16, 22-23; 28:8**)
- C. There are some jobs and actions that a Christian cannot participate in.
1. We cannot participate (have fellowship) in what is wrong! Consider working at or expecting to participate in the temple of an idol. (**2 Cor 6:14-18**)
  2. Could a Christian work at an abortion clinic? Serve alcohol? Do something that violates your conscience?
- D. What should be our attitude towards honorable work?
1. The same as God! This is a matter of faithfulness. (**2 Thess 3:10-12**)
  2. When we work God is our boss. We should give our best! (**Col 3:22-24**)
  3. We can steal by failing to do our best.

### ***III. Wisdom while working for money***

- A. Go the extra mile in handling money. (**2 Cor 8:19-21**)
- B. Go the extra mile in your contact and association with the opposite sex.
  1. You may have more companionship with a worker that with your mate! (**Eph 5:3**)
  2. Here is where a stand for the Lord will eliminate many problems.
- C. Learn the difference between dedication and being a workaholic
  1. Here is where we need to see clearly. (**Mt 6:33; Ecc 6:7-9**)
  2. Men in particular may find their lives completely defined by their work.
- D. Overcoming stress and worry about money.
  1. What about the paralyzing fear of not being able to pay the bills? (**Mt 6:30-34**)
  2. We need to be ready to accept the loss of a job with peace. (**Phil 4:11-13**)
  3. Let us face our worry and know that all is well! (**Jn 16:33**)

#### **Questions**

1. What foundational principle should be instilled in every man concerning where he gets money to live?
2. What are the three general categories of honorable ways of receiving money?
3. Under what circumstances should we seek to have others give money to us?
4. List some dishonorable and dishonest ways of making money.
5. What should we consider about a job before taking it?
6. Why should we be very careful in handling the money of others?
7. What are some common dangers in the workplace?
8. What should we do when we cannot pay the bills?