

① Balanced DVD—

“OPENING THE BOOKS”

Balanced: Gaining & Maintaining Financial Stability, Part 1
October 18th, 2009

Three Laws of Physical Balance

Law 1: You must have the proper reference point

Law 2: You must make constant corrections

Law 3: You must have a clear objective

How The Laws of Physical Balance Apply To Your Finances

When you violate the laws of balance financially usually there aren't immediate consequences; consequently we don't do anything about it

Financial laws operate by the Law of the Harvest - “I sow now, & reap later & greater”

Personal finances don't follow the Law of Fairness

Money is never going to be “fair,” but it can be balanced

When things are out of balance, there are always consequences; sometimes the consequences spill over to other areas of life

Most couples who have financial problems have enough money but are out of balance

When you bring two dysfunctional finances together & think it will get better; the couple is surprised when it doesn't

Can be out of balance financially in different ways, i.e. spender, hoarder, lack of generosity, presume upon the future. We tend to be critical of those not like us

Surprise – the more money you have, the easier it is to be out of balance financially

You can't be in sync with God & out of balance financially on decisions you continue to make

There is far more in the Bible about how to manage money than about giving

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

Wherever your treasure is, your heart follows

If we surrender our stuff to God, He will have our hearts.

Luke 16:13 (NIV) “No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or He will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

We face a constant tension – who is going to be your ruler

God has invited us into a relationship where we make our love of stuff subservient to our love and devotion to God

When the pursuit & acquisition of stuff becomes our master, you are immediately out of balance

You can trust Christ with money. He doesn't want to get your money – He wants to make sure your money doesn't get you

Assignment this week - spy on your money. Watch it & keep detailed records this week

Proper reference point for managing your money – where is it going?

Need to keep an eye on money because it's not yours - it's God. You are managing someone else's wealth.

At New Hope we want you to have financial freedom to obey God

The only place you will find contentment in personal finances is when you are free to be and do what God has called you to

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will keep track of my finances this week
- I want to be in a small group during this series to further discuss these principles
- I will memorize Matthew 6:21
- I plan to attend the concert this Friday night, Oct 23rd with the City Orchestra and Ballet