

“A SUDDEN REALIZATION”

Lost, Part 1

September 26th, 2010

Self-assurance and confidence are not guarantees you won't get lost in life

In all the realms of life your personal finances should be the easiest not to be or get lost

You know how much comes in, and you send it out wherever it goes

Being lost financially has nothing to do with how much you make

If you are lost financially, you can't wholeheartedly be a follower of Christ

1 John 4:20 (NIV) "If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen."

Jesus said too much about money for us to say "I'm a wholehearted follower of Christ, but I'm lost financially."

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

Where we send our money, our attention follows it

If your personal finances are out of whack or you're lost, your heart will be mixed in there with it

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."

Your heart and your money are linked

The #1 competition God faces for our heart is our money & stuff

If we are truly going to follow Christ, we must surrender the financial realm of our life to Christ

Proverbs 22:7 (NIV) "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."

Jesus isn't trying to get our money; He's trying to keep our money from getting us

Money is a spiritual issue

1 Chronicles 29:11 (NIV) "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours..."

Why not invite God into your finances now?

I want you to be free so that you can do whatever God calls you to do

Proverbs 21:20 (NIV) "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food & oil, but a foolish man devours all he has."
(NLT) "...but fools spend whatever they get."

God wants for you to be content

Luke 12:15 (NIV) "Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

1 Timothy 6:6 (NLT) "Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth."

Hebrews 13:5 (TM) "Don't be obsessed with getting more material things. Be relaxed with what you have. Since God assured us, 'I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you.'"

You can not get "unlost" until you know where your money is going

Proverbs 27:23,24 (LB) "Riches can disappear fast. And the king's crown doesn't stay in his family forever – so watch your business interests closely. Know the state of your flocks and your herds."

Challenge – Write down where all your money is going for the next 5 weeks – use whatever system works for you – but do it

If you don't know where your money is going, it's your fault

In finances the opposite of lost isn't found – it's discovering where you are so you can get to where you want to be. To do this, you must know where your money goes.

You cannot wholeheartedly follow your Savior if you are financially lost

My Next Step Today Is:

- I am inviting God into my finances now
- I will take the challenge and track all my expenses for the next 5 weeks
- I will memorize Proverbs 27:23-24
- I am attending the "Meet the Pastor's Meal" on Sunday, October 17th