Managing Money Well

SWEATCON WORKSHOP 2020

Our financial goals are determined by what we pursue.
The Christian seeks (pursues) the Kingdom first – and all other things will fall into place.

Examine and align our finances with our goal.
How we spend, save, borrow, invest, and give should be aligned to our goal and priorities.

Money serves a greater purpose than ourselves.
You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. (2 Cor. 9:11)

1. OUR FINANCIAL GOALS ARE DETERMINED BY WHAT WE PURSUE

What are some of the things the world pursues?

- Wealth
- Financial Stability
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We can be excellent money managers, but not necessarily good stewards. We can plan our money well, not get into debt, fund our future needs – but if we leave out generosity and the Kingdom in mind, it's like the saying *"The operation was successful, but the patient died".*

What should Christians pursue?

- The Kingdom
- Being a "Good and Faithful Servant"
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> *You make known to me the path of life;*
> *you will fill me with joy in your presence,*
> *with eternal pleasures at your right hand.* (Psalm 16:11)

2. EXAMINE AND ALIGN OUR FINANCES WITH OUR GOALS

EXAMINE OUR FINANCES

- *What am I spending money on? Do I spend more on non-priority (impulsive) purchases than on the things that actually have value?*
- *Do I have enough savings to continue to be generous and live reasonably during difficult times?*

Most people can't answer those questions *because*

- They don't know where their money is going*; and that's because*:
- <u>They don't have a budget</u>

ALIGN OUR FINANCES

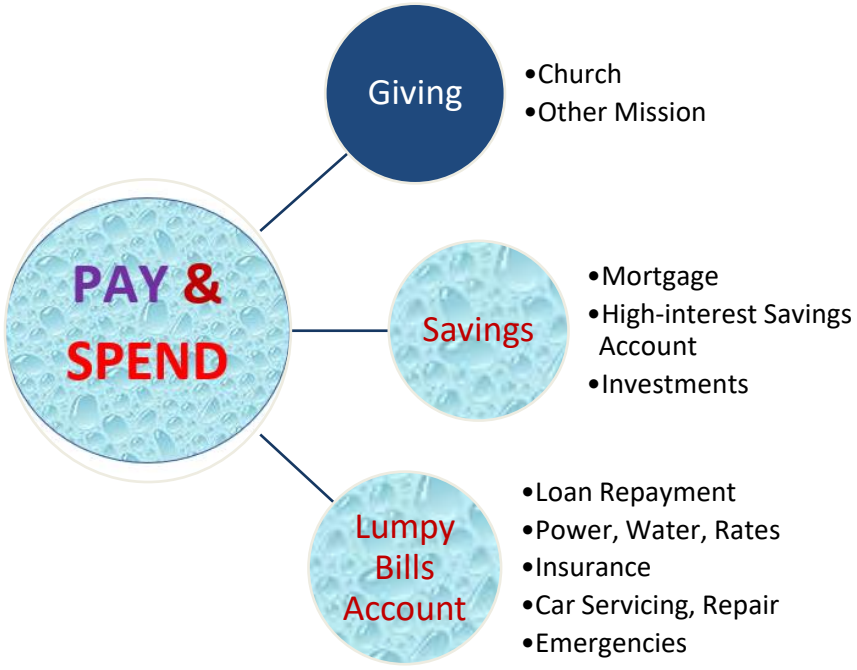
	The World	**The Bible**	**Application**
Ownership	It's mine.	It's God's – Heb 2:10; Ps 89:11; Ps 24:1; Ps 8	I don't cling tightly to my money, possessions, or wealth. I am ready to release them for the Kingdom.
Stewardship Purpose	I manage my resources to bring me the greatest pleasure.	I manage God's resources for His glory – 2 Cor 9:10-11	I plan my finances wisely, not so I can grow richer and richer, rather how His purpose can be served through what he has given me.
Giving	From time to time I will give to charities that appeal to me when I can.	God has been sacrificial towards me and therefore I give generously and sacrificially towards His Kingdom, primarily to the local church which Jesus calls his bride – 2 Php 2:6-8; 2 Cor 8:9	I set aside the first fruits of my income to give to my local church, and I do this with joy because everything that I earn comes from Him. Above that, I look for opportunities to be sacrificial in my giving as I bless other Christian missions or specific projects that my church is running.
Spending	I spend money on products and services that give me the greatest joy.	I obtain the greatest joy when I use the money he has entrusted me to bless the Kingdom – 2 Cor 8:2-5; Rom 14:17; Heb 12:2	I ensure that I do not spend more than I can afford (after giving generously). My generosity towards the Kingdom does not stop at my giving to church; it also flows from sharing what I buy for myself (eg. sharing my home, musical instruments, books, movies, etc.) with my church family and others who are in need.

	The World	The Bible	Application
Savings	Whatever money I don't need to spend, I will save to ensure I can still maintain my lifestyle during bad times.	I save so that I can continue to be generous during bad times – 2 Cor 9:10-11; Prov. 6:6-8	Saving is an important part of stewarding God's resources wisely; the purpose is not to build up my own wealth. I save so I can buy something I need in the future which I can't afford now (as opposed to purchasing the item on credit). I also save so that I can continue to be generous with my giving if I lose my job, my car breaks down or another emergency occurs.
Borrowing	When I want to buy something and I am short on cash, I'll borrow money or put it on credit.	I understand that borrowing makes me a slave to the lender and the interest and repayments associated with such debt becomes an obstacle for me to be generous to the Kingdom – Prov 22:7	The only loan that I would consider taking is a home loan, as the alternative (long-term renting) is generally worse. I will avoid any other debt, including car loans, AfterPay and credit card debt. I'll also be cautious with the amount that I borrow for my home loan to ensure I won't be enslaved by the debt and I can continue to be generous towards the Kingdom.
Investing	I invest to earn a greater reward for me in the future.	I invest in things that have eternal value – Matt 6:19-21	Supporting the local church and Christian mission is an investment that has eternal value. It should be my primary focus on investment. If, however, I am already being generous and sacrificial with my giving and I have surplus funds to invest, I put some of my investments in a separate account so that when my local church or other mission is fundraising for a worthwhile one-off project, I am ready to partner with them at any given time.
Retirement Planning	I need to plan for my retirement so I can enjoy the fruits of my productive years.	I need to plan for my retirement wisely so that I can continue to live reasonably and be generous towards the Kingdom when I am no longer earning an income – Matt 6:19-21; 2 Cor 9:11	My retirement plans won't stop me from being generous during my working years. It will also include a plan for me to continue to be generous during retirement.

SO WHAT DO WE DO?

- **Create a budget**

- **Ensure you stay on budget by creating separate bank accounts:**



When you receive your pay, automate the allocation of funds for:

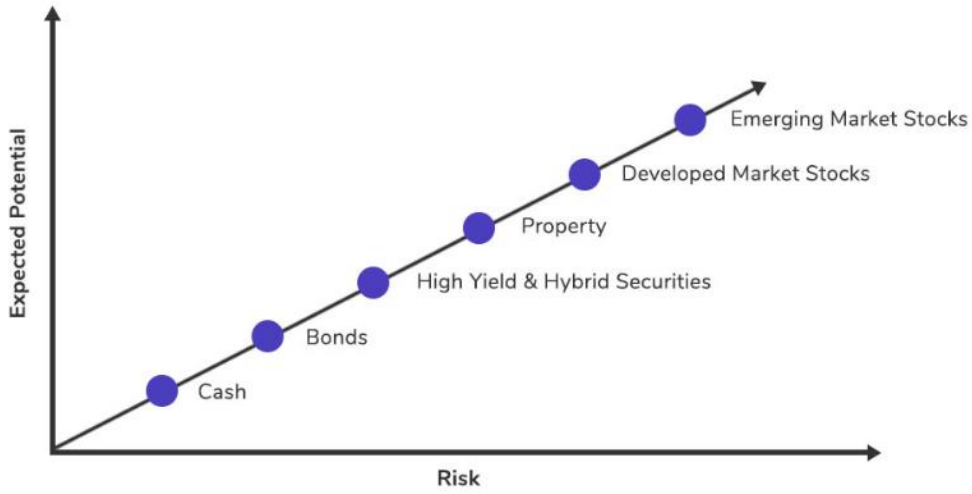
- Giving (to church and other mission)
- Savings / Mortgage (to your savings account)
- Lumpy quarterly/annual bills (to your dedicated lumpy bills account)

The rest of the money in your pay account is what you have left to spend (don't go over).

… A BRIEF NOTE ON INVESTING …

- There is a trade-off between risk and reward. The higher the potential reward, the higher the risk (in the short-term).

- Compartmentalise assets based on the needs for each time horizon:
  - Cash (savings, TDs) for your short-term needs
  - Bonds, stocks and managed funds for your longer-term needs (over 5 years)
  - Property for the long-term (over 10 years)



3. MONEY SERVES A GREATER PURPOSE THAN OURSELVES

Ultimately … *the Kingdom is also an investment* – the most important one for Christians.

However, if you are already giving generously to church and mission, and looking to steward your surplus wisely (especially in a low cash rate environment), consider having two investment accounts/buckets, one for yourself/family and the other for you to build the Kingdom in the future.

How much is generous?

- *Each month*, how much do you currently spend on your own pleasure:

  Hobbies $_____

  Entertainment $_____

  Dining out $_____

  Alcohol $_____

  Holidays $_____ (*your annual holiday spend divided by 12*)

  TOTAL **$_____**

  Giving to church and mission **$_____**

  Does our spending reflect that Jesus is the number one reality in our life – or does it show that our flesh is?

Where do you give?

There is primacy in the local church.

> *John Piper:*
>
> *"I do think the local church has a unique and special place in God's plan and therefore a special claim on the giving of its people. Other kinds of ministries are wonderful, and I want them all to flourish. I am involved in some. But the one institution in the world that is clearly rooted in the New Testament and in the gospel is the local church.*
>
> *If that institution fails, all other ministries become ineffective. Indeed, if the church fails, all other ministries become unbiblical. The local church is the seedbed for all other ministries. The church is the place where the participants in those ministries find their nourishment and the biblical expression of their corporate worship.*
>
> *I think it is a good rule of thumb — hear those words — I think it is a good rule of thumb to start your giving by tithing to the local church and then giving over and above elsewhere."*
>
> *(Source:* https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/may-i-split-my-giving-between-my-church-and-another-ministry*)*

The local church's mission is *your* mission.



THESAUROS CONSULTING helps churches and Christians steward God's resources that He has entrusted upon us. We'll discuss your financial situation and using our tools and systems help you build short-, medium-, and long-term budgets based on any life-event scenarios that you foresee (more/less dependents, more/less work/income/family changes, etc.).

We invite you to call/text/email us:

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