



MoneyWise COURSE

THE REASON FOR MONEYWISE

Dear reader!

As a congregation leader and businessman myself for many years, I am writing this letter to you from my heart concerning my experience of money in the church and the world. In the church we have an over-emphasis on tithing and nothing more. In the world everything is about money as if money is the end in itself! The church completely underestimates the role money plays in the real world in which we all live. The church does not see the spirit side of money and ignores it completely as if it belongs to the world. The world, on the other side, chases money as if it is the only dimension on earth. The world over-emphasizes money, but is silent about the role character and relationship play in money matters.

To solve the problem, people even go so far as to say there are **two worlds** with two sets of rules, namely the spiritual church world and the earthly business world. Religion always separates things like these and then polarizes it as if you can only live in one at a time. Although there is a spiritual world and an earthly physical world, it is supposed to be one and function in unity. Your biggest mistake would be to separate the two as if they cannot function together.

Let me tell you what motivated me to start Moneywise. It all started when I noticed most men's lack of commitment in the church and spiritual things. It is as if they never have time or energy to be involved in anything except their survival fight of providing for the family. For the last 20 years I have been ministering on men's camps, and I have always asked them to write down their number one problem on a piece of paper. The outcome was always the same:

- Money
- Sex
- How to deal with womanhood

The **number one problem** was always money! The man was designed as a king to provide for his home, and therefore it is not strange that money is men's number one problem. Worst of all, these are the three things we talk about least of all in church! After salvation, this is the three most relevant things in men's lives. Are we really busy solving these things in men's lives? Is this not one of the reasons why men find church to be irrelevant? I do not believe tithing is wrong, but tithing alone does not solve people's financial problems. We need to address this problem in a very practical way to help them.

It is further clear that the financial problem is not a money problem in the first place, but a personal problem. Poverty is not a lack of money, but **a lack of identity**. Solving the financial problem on earth is indeed the mandate of the church, because we have all the principles of sound finances in our manual of life, namely the Bible! Much more is being said in the Word about finances than about most other subjects. There are approximately 2350 Scriptures in the Bible about money. Twice as much as the Scriptures about faith and prayer combined! Jesus spoke more about money and possessions than any other subject in the Word. At least one third of Jesus' teachings were about money. Sixteen of the 38 parables spoke about money. One out of every seven texts in the four Gospels is about money. That does not mean you should run away from money or ignore it, but rather that you should position it correctly in your life! God has given the mandate of finances and sound financial principles to the church and not to the world or economic department at the university.

My third appeal comes to you from **I Tim. 6:10** "For **the love of money is the root of all evil**: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." Take note: the LOVE of money is the root of all evil and not money itself! Furthermore, if the love of money is the root of ALL evil, then we need to settle this money thing once and for all so that people can sort out all evil in their lives! The basic reason why people constantly battle evil in their lives is because they have never settled the money thing for themselves. You see, you will never settle the money thing if you have not settled the identity question in your life. Money is everywhere and in every aspect of your life, and you need to solve your lifestyle before money will settle down. Money is all about values that drive and inspire your life. Remember, the financial problem is not a money problem in the first place, but a personal identity problem.

My last appeal to you comes from **Luke 16:10-12** "He who is faithful in **the least** is also faithful in much. And he who is unjust in the least is also unjust in much. Therefore, if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon,

who will entrust the true riches to you? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who shall give you that which is your own?" This is an enormous strong verse. It says that money is the least in the Kingdom of God and because it is the least, it will be the **number one test** in your Christian life after getting to know the Lord! The biggest reason why people suffer with the spiritual and deeper things is that they have never written the first test in the Kingdom of God concerning money! It is incredible how quickly people's lives start to make progress after they sort out the money test.

Let me give you a final reason why money is so important in the Kingdom of God. If you are really interested in winning souls and engaging people easily, money is the way. Money is the biggest **open door** to the world. They love it when you talk to them about money, and if you are in their financial lives, you are in the fullness of their life. You cannot talk about money without talking about life. Money is the means with which you live your life. People will even pay you to talk to them about money. When I invite people to come and see me about their finances, they start to talk about life and all their other relationships. They appreciate it when you are sincerely concerned about the other relationships in their lives. Money and winning souls go hand in hand. Talk about spiritual things and the believers will come to you; talk about money and the unbelievers will come to you! I love it!

In the light of all this, I really urge you to reconsider the role and influence of money in your personal and church life. I have been in ministry for 28 years and the last 15 years also in business. We can live them together as one life! It is not the one or the other. They both belong to God and are two dimensions of our one world. Moneywise is just one of the tools that address this problem. It is based on the principles of the Word in the first place, but also incorporates all the financial principles that you will find in the financial world. Let us write this test once and for all in our lives and live in the fullness that our Creator has purposed for us!

Be wise, be part of Moneywise!

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