



From The Pastor's Heart . . .

Christmas has come and gone. Many people will be singing another song for the rest of this year.

♪ I heard the **BILLS** after Christmas day, I suspect I will still be paying in May. ♪

Sometimes, Christmas comes around again and we are still paying last year's Christmas bills. Many people live their entire life, spending money they don't have, borrowing from the future. It is a never ending merry-go-round that is no fun.

Good News! Good News! Good News! Good News! Good News! Good News! Good News!

The Bible has a solution. Would you be surprised to learn that along with God's command to give 10% of your gross family income, He has a way out of the mire of debt. I have never heard a born-again believer who was adamantly opposed to tithing. They just couldn't figure how to overcome the merry-go-round of debt.

Jesus had a lot to say about money. Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions. In the Gospels, an amazing one out of ten verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money. The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions.

We have contracted with Dave Ramsey and his Financial Peace University to bring this plan to our church. The first 10 couples or individuals who sign up will be able to purchase this plan for \$99.00—\$20.00 off of the list price. And right about now you are thinking, "Preacher, if I am mortgaged to the max, how do you expect me to come up with that money?" There's an old song that says,

♪ Little is much, if God is in it. ♪

We believe in this so strongly that we are willing to pay for this course for you. All we ask is that you pay \$10.00 a month over the next 10 months to pay for this. That is only 34¢ a day. What sacrifice would you be willing to make to come up with 34¢ a day?

I have been exactly where some of you are right now. I know what it is to have more month at the end of the money. This year, I will be teaching through this newsletter about what the Bible has to say about money. The prophet Malachi is our "go-to guy" when talking about money. He said: ([MMalachi 3:6-12 NAS77](#)).

⁶ "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

⁷ From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes, and have not kept *them*. Return to Me, and I will return to you,' says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' ⁸ Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' 'In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation *of you!* ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,' says the LORD of hosts, 'if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

¹¹ Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it may not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast *its grapes,*' says the LORD of hosts. ¹² 'And all the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land,' says the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 3:6-12 NAS77).

That is tough to hear. I have read and studied extensively about tithing. I have preached and taught it. I have dispelled a lot of the misconceptions regarding how we are to do this. But I became firmly convinced that, along with the teaching, I was being remiss in not telling people HOW to reach the point where they could. I will tell you that God means what He says. I have experienced His provision for over 3 decades. I look forward to leading you to reach the point where you experience God's blessings instead of His curse.

We already have our 1st couple signed up to go through the course. That leaves only 9 memberships left at the discount rate. After those are claimed the cost goes to \$129.00.

Per Dave Ramsey's website: *Financial Peace University* will help you take control of your money, plan for your future, and transform your life. Check it out for yourself. Go to www.daveramsey.com

See you Sunday: Looking Up, Reaching Out, Going Forward.

From My Heart To Yours,

Bro. Bob

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