

## Getting it Right for 2025

Sunday, December 12, 2025

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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Seeing yourself as a servant and understanding that the Lord holds us accountable as such is essential to your success this year.

Understanding that it is the Lord we are really serving when we go to that job we hold out there in the world - even understanding that it is God Himself that chooses our rate of pay.

Also looking at what the attitude of a servant really looks like.

For our text today we're going to start out in:

### **Ecclesiastes 5:18-19**

18 Behold *that* which I have seen: *it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion.*

19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labor; *this is the gift of God.*

As we look today on what it takes to get it right for the new year, let us take note of how very important it is that we actually be a genuine servant of the Lord.

What kind of testimony for the Lord do we have when we praise Jesus and brag on what a great God we serve; while we barely survive, our credit scores are in the tank, and we are not properly providing for ourselves and our families?

One night about 45 years ago, an unbeliever I was trying to witness to asked me, "If this Jesus of yours is so great, how come you can't even quit smoking?"

The truth is that if some of the people some of you are a witness to actually said what they were thinking you would likely hear, "If this Jesus of yours is so great, how come you are always broke?"

I know that Jesus did say in

**Mark 14:7** For ye have the poor with you always ...

And the Bible does say in

**Proverbs 28:6** Better *is* the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than *he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.*

There are certainly many worse things than being poor; however, there is not a verse or a passage or a teaching in the Bible that commends Christians for being poor or that teaches that God's Children should be or stay that way.

Just the opposite is true; God wants you well provided for and has made complete provision for it in His Word.

As a Christian, your financial condition affects a lot more than your credit score: Solomon said in

**Ecclesiastes 9:16** ...*Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.*

Just for the record, that same night 45 years ago was the last time I ever smoked a cigarette because my Jesus really is so great!

Today's message is not about how to become financially independent; as a matter of fact, Christians must get used to the idea that they will always be very financially dependent!

Today's message is a challenge for you to get serious about reading, studying, learning and particularly APPLYING what the Bible says about money.

It is said that the **Bible** offers 500 verses on prayer, fewer than 500 verses on faith, and more than 2,000 verses on **money**.

In fact, 15 **percent** of everything Jesus ever taught was on the topic of **money** and possessions - more than His teachings on heaven and hell combined.

None of this will do you an ounce of good unless you both learn it and then actually apply it to your life.

You must act on it.

**James 1:22** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Every time you discover a principle of wisdom that you lack, you need to make that principle part of your life that very day.

What I have for you today is a general plan that will help you get it right for 2025.

There is no quick fix.

There are situations; there are exceptions; there are certain things that God may be doing or teaching you that may cause finances to be withheld for a time even if you are doing all the right things.

For example, I know that God has withheld financial blessing from us on occasion so that I couldn't help my children avoid some of the hard financial lessons God was trying to teach them.

Today's message is not about tithing or giving.

Without exception, I teach every believer under the sound of my voice to tithe faithfully and to give generously just like the Bible teaches, as Lisa and I also do so ourselves.

For you to be richly blessed and highly favored of God, and then be unwilling to honor Him with a part of that with which God blesses you, speaks volumes about the condition of your heart.

Today's message is about having something substantial to honor the Lord and minister to others with.

The universe operates according to laws; the law of gravity is not Isaac Newton's law, it's God's law.

The financial universe operates according to laws as well.

As we start out today, I want to give you three areas that you must place in their proper priorities.

## I. You must get your priorities right.

A. *About riches.* (Like giving, it's not about the money).

1. **Proverbs 23:4** Labor not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

2. **Ecclesiastes 5:10-12**

10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this *is* also vanity.

11 When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good *is there* to the owners thereof, saving the beholding *of them* with their eyes?

12 The sleep of a laboring man *is* sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

3. **Proverbs 30:8-9**

8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

9 Lest I be full, and deny *thee*, and say, Who *is* the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God *in vain*.

4. Yes, it means quit buying those stupid lottery tickets; which, if God did let you win, would destroy you.

5. There is a giant category called “having enough and to spare” lying right there in the middle between poverty and riches.

6. There is also a need and a place for certain rare and special very rich believers (chosen of God) who can and will use what they have for the glory of God; it was one of those who provided the tomb for our Lord.

7. Your financial priorities cannot be about the money; the money is the least part of the equation. Jesus said:

**Luke 16:10-11**

10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon [money], who will commit to your trust the true *riches*?

## II. You must understand Who you are really working for.

A. You may work in a plant or in a small business or at a desk in front of a computer or a car wash, or any number of places.

1. But you Christians are really serving the Lord.

2 **Ephesians 6:5** says... Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, **as unto Christ**;

3. **Verse 6** says... **as the servants of Christ**, doing the will of God...

4. **Verse 7** ... **as to the Lord**, and not to men:

5. Some of you say you don't like your boss; you'd better fix that, because your real boss is the Lord!

6. It is the Lord we serve!

And what most do not understand...

B. *It is also the Lord who sets our pay rate.*

1. Go back and read

**Verse 8:** Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same **shall he receive of the Lord**, whether *he be* bond or free.

2. The check may come **through** the boss or the company, but it comes **from** the Lord!

3. **Luke 6:38** Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For **with the same measure** that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

4. I have come to understand that the measure with which God releases His blessings to us is determined primarily by our attitude as a servant.

5. Someone once said that it is “your attitude determines your altitude”!

**III. Look at some of these attitude characteristics of one with a servant’s heart.** (In addition to serving with fear and trembling).

A. **Verse 5** says that he serves... *in singleness of your heart...*

1. This means that when you go to work you actually focus on your job; what it is that you are being paid to do.

2. I don’t want a guy handling a nail gun powerful enough to drive a nail clean through your heart thinking about what he did last night or what he plans to do next weekend;

a. I want him thinking about where he is placing those nails; one, because I am paying for the material;

b. Two, because I want him to go home at the end of the day in one piece.

c. Your job is to do your job well and give it your full and undivided attention.

B. **Verse 6** says... *Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers;*

1. *ophthalmodouleia* opp thal mod oo’ leah

*of-thal-mod-oo-li’-ah*

From G3788 and G1397; *sight labor*, that is, that needs watching (*remissness*): - eye-service.

2. Good luck trying to pronounce this Greek word; but what it means is easy to understand; don’t be somebody that needs watching!

3. Your service should be the same whether the boss is there watching or whether he is gone; remember...your real boss is never gone.

4. Don’t be a menpleaser; This is that “apple polisher”; there are other terms for this that I am choosing not to use.

C. **Verse 7** says...*With good will doing service...*

1. This is doing your job kindly and gladly with the best interest of your employer or customer at heart.
2. I have often been in the presence of various service workers who obviously did not want to be there.
3. You have seen those whose attitude was as though they thought themselves somehow above the job they were having to do.
4. There are a lot of people out there on various jobs who are thinking “I deserve better than this”.
5. You may be one of them.
6. If you think you deserve better, you have basically two choices:
  - a. You could pray and ask God to give you what you really deserve.
  - b. Or, you could just go about being worth far more than you are getting paid and see what your real boss does with that.

*D. Perhaps the most important aspect of your attitude is the attitude of gratitude.*

1. **Colossians 3:17** And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

**Verse 15** says...and be ye thankful.

2. Does your attitude reflect genuine gratitude?
3. Or does this aspect of your attitude need an adjustment?

### **Conclusion:**

**In the outset of today’s message I asked you if you considered yourself equal to your boss; I said that there were ways in which you are equal but not in that for which you are getting paid.**

**One of those ways you are equal is that you both are sinners; and thus both deserve to be cast into a devil’s hell and be forgotten about for all of eternity.**

**If you are a Christian, it means that Jesus not only loved you enough to die in your place; it means that He sought you and found you and bought you back from your sin.**

**He owns you and He owns me! I am bought and paid for; He is my Master, and I am His servant.**

**Sometimes on a truck going down the road you will read a sign that says “Owned and operated by \_\_\_\_\_.”**

**Jesus is my owner, but we need Him also to be the operator!**

**Furthermore, I am totally OK with that. Are you OK with that? Are you sure?**

**If you are not now being rewarded the way you would like to be...it is just possible that the reason you don't get rewarded or promoted or recognized like you want IS (sadly) that you actually DO serve your employer like you serve Christ?**

**I will let you think about that for a moment.**

**What would our Church be like if every member served the Lord to the exact same level that you do?**

**Does your desire to serve Jesus rise to the level of one who is truly grateful that He saved you from your sins?**

**Or do you really know Him at all?**

**Your family needs you to get it right in 2025, in all areas of life; are you willing to become a good and faithful SERVANT?**

**Also let me say, we keep financial records of your giving. You'll need this for your taxes, but it's good for other things as well.**

**Multiply it times 10 and see how you're doing in honoring the Lord.**