

# FINANCES & THE GOSPEL

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*formations class*



**VERITAS**

## Welcome to “Finances and The Gospel,” a Formation Class!

We are so thankful that you decided to spend some of your time and energy learning with us. I do have to confess though, we duped you a bit. We have different names for our classes but they are all really about one subject—His name is Jesus. He is the culmination of history, the creator of all things, the resurrection and the life, and the one to whom all things are restored. And He is *our* Savior! What else could possibly capture our interest more than Him?

Our hope and prayer for you as a VST student is not just that you gain some bible knowledge, but more importantly, that ‘Christ is formed in you’ (Gal 4:19). Our prayer is that your heart will delight more and more in our Savior and all He has done for us. Pray with us that God might use these classes to fill our community groups with people who are consumed with Jesus Christ and passionate about seeing Him save their neighbors, friends, co-workers, and family members.

One encouragement I would like to give you as we engage in learning together—believe the gospel! Two things that means for us. First, believe that you are a sinner saved by grace. If you have questions, if you don't understand something, if you need something repeated, etc. you don't have to pretend to be smart or fear looking stupid. Your hope is not in others perceiving you as being smart, your hope is in Jesus! So you're free to ask questions, ask to have things repeated, or simply say you don't understand. This is not a place where we are proving ourselves, we are doing the exact opposite- proclaiming our weakness and trusting in Jesus.

Secondly, when we believe the gospel we believe that Jesus saved us into God's family. This means in all we do we recognize that its not just about ‘me’, but about ‘us’. As we learn together ask God to help you to be concerned not only with your growth, but with the growth of others. Be looking for how you can aid in the learning of your fellow brothers and sisters. Come to class not only to receive what Jesus has to teach you, but also to be used by Jesus to minister to one another. Maybe the greatest learning you will do in this class is practicing how to put others ahead of yourself! What a great experience that would be!

Your pastors love you dearly.

Much Grace,

Ryan Stanley  
Community Life Pastor

## Finances and the Gospel

**Class Dates: Wednesdays- February 4th, 11th, and 25th**

**Class Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm**

**Week 1: Introduction to Stewardship**

**Week 2: How should we then live?**

**Week 3: Where the rubber meets the road.**

### Assigned Reading Material

#### Week 1

In love and in debt by Bill Simmonds -- <https://urbanhillschurch.onthecity.org/plaza/topics/99eb73ca599cfa531981926aef5c05ace8ed6022>

What's the Difference Between Living for the Kingdom and Living for the American Dream?; an interview with John Piper -- <http://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/whats-the-difference-between-living-for-the-kingdom-and-living-for-the-american-dream>

#### Week 2

Wartime Wisdom for the Wealthy by John Piper <http://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/wartime-wisdom-for-the-wealthy>

Fighting the cultural tide by Jason Fisher <http://www.consideringstewardship.com/fight-the-cultural-tide/>

#### Week 3

<http://www.consideringstewardship.com/series/new-year-budget/>

### Other Suggested Resources

#### **Books**

*Sex and Money* by Paul Tripp

*The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn

*Your Money or Your Life* by Vicki Robin, Joe Dominguez and Monique Tilford

#### **Websites**

[http://www.redeemer.com/learn/resources\\_by\\_topic/generosity/stewardship](http://www.redeemer.com/learn/resources_by_topic/generosity/stewardship)

<http://www.consideringstewardship.com>

<http://christianpf.com/>

## **Week #1      Biblical Stewardship**

What is biblical Stewardship?

The relationship between money and repentance in Luke 3

The relationship to money and repentance in Luke 19

Questions to ask yourself:

1. How important is money to you?
2. What sacrifices are you willing to make or not willing to make?
3. How did your parents deal with money?
4. How does that impact how you deal with it?
5. How might it impact your marriage?
6. How do you think about consumer debt?
7. How do you handle your money: are you a spender or save?
8. What are my financial goals?
9. How will you budget?
10. How important are Christmas gifts, vacations and new cars to you?
11. What Biblical Story hits you the hardest with money?

### **Assignments**

Read Assigned Reading Material and bring discussion topics and questions.

Begin to track your spending using your preferred method.  
What does your spending say about your heart?

**Week #2      How should we then live?**

Our attachment to possessions must be replaced with an attachment to Jesus.

Rich Young Ruler

What prevents you from being a better steward?

Are you using God's money to insulate you from your need of him?

**Assignment**

Bring all applicable information to create a budget in next week's class.

**Assigned Reading Material**

Wartime Wisdom for the Wealthy by John Piper <http://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/wartime-wisdom-for-the-wealthy>

Fighting the cultural tide by Jason Fisher <http://www.consideringstewardship.com/fight-the-cultural-tide/>

### **Week #3      Where the rubber meets the road.**

*It is only when King Christ is given the proper value in our hearts that King Money will have neither the power nor the room to rule us. It seems that often in the churches' money discussions we forget this, and because we do, we ask the law to do what only grace can accomplish. A budget can expose what your heart truly values, but a budget has no power to make you worship the right King. A budget can give you useful spending guidelines, but it has no power to restrain your fickle and wandering heart. A budget can make you more money aware, but it will not deliver you from temptation. – Paul Tripp "Sex and Money"*

This week's class will be an in class workshop. We will walk through some practical matters on money and how to handle it.

We will create a budget as part of the class.

If you would like to download an electronic version of the budget we will use it is available here:

<http://www.consideringstewardship.com/sample-budget/>

Please bring all information you may need to make the budget.

1. Paychecks
2. Bills
3. Loan statements
4. Credit card statement
5. Spending records

You will need at least the following for each loan:

The Balance    Interest Rate    Minimum payment for each loan.