



## Managing God's Money: A Biblical Guide

*Randy Alcorn*

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## **Managing God's Money: A Biblical Guide** Randy Alcorn

God cares a great deal more about our money than most of us imagine. The sheer enormity of Scripture's teaching on this subject screams for our attention. In fact, Jesus says more about how we are to view and handle money and possessions than about any other topic—including both heaven and hell. In *Managing God's Money*, Randy Alcorn breaks down exactly what the Bible has to say about how we are to handle our money and possessions in a simple, easy-to-follow format. Filled with Scripture references, *Managing God's Money* is the perfect reference tool for anyone who is interested in gaining a solid biblical understanding of money, possessions, and eternity.

## **Managing God's Money: A Biblical Guide Details**

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## From Reader Review Managing God's Money: A Biblical Guide for online ebook

### Chrissy says

I had already read the treasure principle, so I knew what to expect. Even so, I loved this book. It truly is a reminder that we are but stewards of god's provisions, and that while we may exalt in our creature comforts, the fact is it is more about His purposes for our money and less about ours.

I'm not saying the book advocates living in a spartan home with nothing, but really we spend so much on stuff that we really don't need. Especially with the ease of purchasing online nowadays, it's no wonder there are so many hoarding material things these days.

It almost seems as if this should be a must read at least once a quarter. Maybe this way it won't be archived on our mental bookshelves.

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### Matt Witten says

A challenging book for our Western culture. A real look at what money is, and what it should mean for us. Something all Christians should read as they learn how to manage worldly assets and use what's God's for his glory.

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### Mary Ellen says

Interesting concepts

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### Jared Segerstrom says

This book was helpful to remember the big picture purpose of money, namely to effectively steward what belongs to God. The author used lots of Scripture to back up his arguments and leaned heavily on the multiple verses in Proverbs which refer to money. By using a Question and Answer format, the book was easily searchable but lacked some cohesion from chapter to chapter. The book maintained a big picture focus, and thus lacked the detailed advice that a Dave Ramsey book contains. Overall, I enjoyed the book and would recommend it to others. I am glad that it is on our church's Student Reading Guide.

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### Steve says

I'm used to fluffy christianese language. Unfortunately, I expect it now. This book, however, demands better from an average Christian financial effort and outlines it with Biblical support. It calls us to be stewards of God's resources (which most people think are their own). The expected wisdom of stewardship smacks the face of casual consumerism rampant in Christian communities. While it is not a guide to getting rich or

investing, there are some helpful tips to follow.

Heck, even for non-Christians, I could recommend this book as a good way to live your financial life. Instead of giving 10% to a church via tithing, give 10% away to a reputable charity and learn to live on less. In the end, it may only be a 4 star book, but I had such low expectations for a Christian book on finances that this guide seemed extraordinary.

Side note: this book was given to me by Christian Community Credit Union for opening a checking account. I only read it because it was free and right in front of me. I planned on recycling immediately, but now I will definitely pass it along.

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## **Curtis says**

It's not that I disagreed with all that was said, but I definitely didn't agree with the approach taken to the subject. In offering the reader a somewhat systematic approach to the topic I felt that much of the larger picture of Christ's call was set aside. Too much focus was given to 'eternal rewards' as an incentive to forego earthly rewards now (while he addresses this statement I found it unconvincing). Instead of using our views and practices regarding finance to drive our move towards becoming Christ-like, Christ calls us to seek first his kingdom. I found some advice useful but felt the book focused my attention more on my money than on Christ's kingdom.

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## **Jonathan Beigle says**

I will just start off by saying I'm not a big fan of Randy Alcorn. BUT, I did really like this book. This is probably my 3rd-4th time being exposed to Alcorn (through sermon series or books), and this is by far the best that I've seen from him. I'm a big fan of reading and learning more about how to manage God's money, and this book does an excellent job of giving Biblical teaching on how we are to be stewards of what God has given us. As an investment analyst I struggle with getting caught up in the world's way of thinking, but this book can really set you straight!

These are some of my favorite quotes from the book:

p. 24 - "One day, money will be useless. While it's still useful, God's money managers with foresight will use it for eternal good."

p. 41 - "God created us to love people and use things, but materialists love things and use people."

p. 49 - "The bait of wealth hides the hook of addiction and slavery."

p. 79 - "The truth is, thinking thirty years ahead is only slightly less shortsighted than thinking thirty days ahead. Christ, the ultimate investment counselor, says, 'Don't ask how your investment will be paying off in just thirty years. Ask how it will be paying off in thirty million years.'"

p. 93 - "Our misconceptions about Heaven, and our consequent lack of excitement about living there forever, feed into our shortsightedness and our habit of clinging to this fallen Earth as our home."

p. 130 - "Christians who consider tithing the pinnacle or high ground of giving are actually lowering the Old Testament standard, which merely started with the tithe (or one of the tithes) but did not end there."

p. 173 - "God is not behind every good deal! Self-control means turning down most good deals on things we want because God may have other and better plans for His money."

p. 183 - "Citibank calculates that a consumer using a credit card will buy 26% more than he would if he were carrying cash, even if he pays it all off with interest charges."

p. 208 - "People often testify of the character, discipline, self-control, and trust in God they developed when

they were younger and had much less to live on. How ironic that these same people pass on large amounts of money to their children, robbing them of similar blessings and character development."

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## **Jake Page says**

Managing God's Money is broad overview of financial stewardship and giving. The question/answer style in which it is written is convenient. The use of scripture is outstanding (there is a lot of scripture on money and possessions to pull from). He addresses the why off the bat with God's ultimate ownership of all things and his charge to us as his money managers (stewards).

There are two things that give me pause:

1) His views of heavenly riches and treasures is the first thing. "...lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." I am still pondering the idea of investing or laying up treasure for yourself in heaven. At first, it seems wrong and selfish. Shouldn't we give just because it is right to give and Christ has gripped our hearts? His answer:

- Our motivations to give are 1) A Response to the Gospel, 2) Healthy Fear of the Lord, and 3) Hope of Glory/Redemption and he adds the 4th --> Heavenly Treasures.
- His supporting evidence is that this is not selfish because for it to be selfish it would mean depriving someone else of something for your gain - but God is not limited in what he can give us.
- Eternal treasures are a motivation (along with the fact that it is right, fearing God, etc..). To suggest that we cannot have more than one motivation creates a false dichotomy.

He acknowledges that Christians usually push back on this topic. I see his points and I am still pondering exactly is meant by us being rewarded in scripture (isn't our reward the Lord himself, and nothing more?)

2) He mentions that not all believers will hear "Well done, good and faithful servant...Enter into the joy of your master." This makes me stop and think. And it motivates me to be faithful with what I have been entrusted with.

His teachings on giving are excellent and comprise most of the book. Lastly, he mentions that the American church has failed to equip its members with practical stewardship training (in most cases). With so much of scripture aimed at this issue, shouldn't it be incorporated into our regular rhythms of discipleship and training within the church? More than teaching from the pulpit-this is something that must be addressed in discipleship.

Main Takeaway: What we do with our money and possessions matters. It belongs to God and we will give an account for every financial/stewardship decision we make.

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## **Matt Chapman says**

Inspiring, convicting, and full of lots of practical advice for faithful stewardship (including a chapter on teaching children to be faithful stewards).

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## **Dale says**

We're God's stewards. All that we are and have God has given us. Our job is to faithfully manage what God has entrusted to us. Randy packs this little book with much Scripture. As you read you grasp the urgency of what the Lord demands of you as His own possession. Biblically sound and profoundly convicting, Randy has taught me to think with an eternal perspective about how I spend not only "my" money but also "my" life for God's glory and others' good. This is a timely book. We all need to store up treasures for ourselves in Heaven. Bless God for His using Randy to guide us to the Scriptures so that we may hear what the Spirit of Christ has to say to His church today about such an important aspect of life, money. Read this book prayerfully and humbly, asking God to give you wisdom on how to live for His glory and looking forward to that day when you see Him face-to-face and He says to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

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## Mayumi Amargo says

Randy Alcorn writes personably and communicatively. He touches on the root issues of why many people (myself included) are hesitant to give, save, or come into bondage of debt. [if they are hesitant to give we do not trust His provision. If we are hesitant to save its because we see an impulsive need rather than an eternal need, and preparation to care for others. If we are in unnecessary debt we want to play God and decide that are wants are our needs.]

My take away: money is as good as the steward. If the rich were willing to share their abundance with those with less there would be less problems in he world. It all starts with a willing heart, habits, and an eternal investment mindset.

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## Sipho says

*Managing God's Money* is in many ways a summary of Randy Alcorn's previous book, *The Treasure Principle*. In 250 pages or so, Alcorn sets out a biblical theology of personal financial management.

The main theme of the book is stewardship, as opposed to ownership. The author discusses topics such as giving, debt, investments and retirement through the lenses of the Bible and sets out WHY we should manage our finances well (not so much HOW).

### Key Takeaways

A steward is someone an owner entrusts with the management of his assets.

A good steward asks what he or she should do with the owner's money.

Stewardship will end at the day of your death. At that time, you will have to give an account.

Money is just a tool. Live strategically, as opposed to merely living simply.

Don't just conserve resources, multiply them.

The perspectives that threaten good money management are: the idea that money is inherently bad, materialism and prosperity theology.

You can't take it with you, but you can send it ahead. Amassing wealth for this life alone is a poor investment.

Consider leaving a minimal inheritance to children and family. Instead, consider how inheritance can go to the church or organisations serving people.

Rewards will be proportional to our faithfulness. Our ultimate aim is to please the Master.

#### What I liked about the book

Intensely Biblical. Alcorn argues from Scripture, explaining and elaborating on passages from both Old and New Testament.

Concise. Very little space is wasted in this book with superfluous repetition.

A good balance of practical application with a theological foundation.

A challenging message!

#### Conclusion

This was an excellent read! As evident, there was nothing I really disliked about this work by Randy Alcorn. I highly recommend this book to anyone seeking to develop a biblical understanding of money management.

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#### **Laura says**

This book has been life changing for me. Growing up in the Lutheran church I do not remember sermons on money and how we should be managing it. I am guilty of being an over spender, living beyond my means and not really caring about the ramifications of it. I am burdened by 'my stuff' and also all the stuff I have bought for my daughter.

This book has shown me how to life my 'dot' well yet prepare for my 'line' life. I will be making many changes that will impact our lives and others for the good. Thank you.

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#### **Michael says**

I am surprised at how much I enjoyed this book about managing money. It was not your typical book with full of cliches and assumptions about what the Bible says but it was very relevant to what is going on in society. I learned a lot about inheritance, the misconceptions about money and why God wants us to live an abundant life. There were certain controversial topics that he talked about, he provided great insight without disputing over it. Although this book was nowhere near fantastic, I learned a lot about how to deal with money and how to be content in whatever state I am in.

I look forward to reading more novels by him, love his writing style and his unbiased views on things.

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## **Dima Belous says**

This is pretty good book on how we should manage our finances. The author covers many topics that have to do with money such as materialism, tithing in church and other things including what kind of attitude we should have towards money as a Christian. I think this book is a good introduction for those who want learn basic principles of money handling in biblical way.

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