

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND ADVANCE READING ASSIGNMENT**

**PT 875**  
**Money and the Soul**  
**(June 9-13, 2008)**

Instructor  
The Rev'd Todd Cederberg, D. Min

Church of the Good Samaritan  
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Credits  
3 units

**I. Course Description**

This course will primarily be an opportunity to examine some of the broader issues related to money, and how they influence our lives together. The biblical, theological and historical approaches to money and possessions in the church will be studied.

## II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. With the exception of the annual stewardship drive or occasional capital campaign, money is most often ignored by the local church. Yet the effect that it silently exerts on the life of the local congregation is significant. The class will look at some of the spiritual challenges that money presents, and how they affect both the typical parishioner as well as the typical pastor. Each student will have the opportunity to become clear about their own financial condition, and to develop a plan to meet the goals that God has given them.
2. To become acquainted with the biblical and historical background relating to money and possessions.
3. To be introduced to theological approaches to money, and to become familiar with concepts in the current debate.
4. To explore the classical spiritual disciplines, and how they might offer healing and refreshment in relation to money and possessions
5. To reflect on one's own experience regarding money, and the extent to which those experiences influence one's current approach and understanding of money.
6. To have a very complete and practical view of one's own financial condition, and a clear set of goals to be accomplished over time.
7. To become aware of the variety of organizations and tools available for teaching and discipleship in the area of money for the local congregation.
8. To formulate a leadership plan for each student's congregation/ministry.
9. If students in the class so desire, we will address the implications of ecclesial realignment for Pension fund issues.

## III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Pre-Seminar

1. Students will read in advance 1500 pages from the attached bibliography of books. Books from the required list that have been read previously should be substituted by books from the recommended list in that same category.
2. A one page reflection on each book read is *DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS*. That reflection should include your wrestling with one or more of the major concepts of the book, and conclude with your evaluation of the value of that book.
3. A five page money journal is *ALSO DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS*. That journal is your account of the effect that money has had on your life. Start with the earliest memories of money in your childhood, and trace the themes and challenges as they develop. Note especially times of pain and joy. Include your wrestling with biblical texts as they have seemed relevant to you, and what it is like leading a ministry/congregation in regard to money. Also include your current financial situation. How does your family feel? Is money a blessing or curse? Are you well or poorly paid? Are you generous? How do you compare yourself to the rest of your congregation?
4. Students will come prepared to read to the class their money journal entries. While you should feel free to edit out parts of your journal you would feel

uncomfortable sharing with a group, please keep in mind that honest and open conversation about this difficult topic will be a gift to the class. It will be of significant help in deepening our appreciation of the place that money and possessions play in the life of the ministry leader. It will also help us to identify themes and struggles that will be critical to developing a healing and realistic ministry.

5. Students will have worked through the suggested assignments in Ron Blue's book, *Master Your Money*, so that in coming to class they will have a complete picture of their own financial standing. They should also have consulted their most recent statement from Social Security, as well as from the Church Pension Fund (if it applies) and any other investment or retirement accounts. *PLEASE BRING THIS INFORMATION WITH YOU.*

#### IV. COURSE EVALUATION

1. The one page reflection on each book due on the first day of class will count for 25% of the final grade.
2. The five page money journal also due on the first day of class will count for 25% of the final grade.
3. Completion of suggested assignments in Ron Blue's book, *Master Your Money*, is to be completed and brought to class. This will count towards 25% of your final grade.
4. The final project regarding "a statement of a distinctly Christian approach to money and possessions" will count as 25% of your final grade.

#### V. COURSE OUTLINE

	Morning (9:30 – 12:00)	Afternoon (1:00 – 3:30)
Monday, June 9	Money: The Current Challenge	Views on Money in the Christian Community
Monday Evening	Dinner Event at the Thompson's	
Tuesday, June 10	Towards a Theology of Money I: Creation	Towards a Theology of Money II: Sin
Wednesday, June 11	Towards a Theology of Money III: Redemption	Towards a Theology of Money IV: Sanctification
Thursday, June 12	Money, Healing and the Spiritual Disciplines	Creating a Culture of Generosity
Friday, June 13	Establishing a Holistic Ministry of Money	The Financial Life of a Minister

## VI. POST-SEMINAR

The final project will be to write a 10-12 page, double spaced (12 font) statement of a distinctly Christian approach to money and possessions. That statement should include:

- 1) An examination of the relevant biblical texts,
- 2) An application of at least one major theological concept,
- 3) An appeal to precedent from church history,
- 4) A reflection of one's own personal experience,
- 5) A use of at least one traditional spiritual discipline,
- 6) At least one personal application,
- 7) A plan or initiative in financial ministry for your local congregation.

This paper will be due not less than 2 months after the end of the class. It should be e-mailed to me at [todd@good-samaritan.org](mailto:todd@good-samaritan.org). You should also call my office phone at (610) 644-4040, ext. 212, to confirm that the document has been received if you do not receive an immediate reply.

For your paper you will want to follow the MLA formatting outlined in the manual:

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*. New York, NY: Modern Language Assn. of America, 1998. Second Edition. 343 pages. ISBN 0-87352-699-6.

## VII. TEXTS

The reading requirement for full DMin credit is 1500 pages. The required list of reading totals 1,125 pages. Please read any of the books on the recommended list to round out the full required page number. If any of the books on the required list have been read, please substitute books from the recommended list to fill the requirement.

Required:

Blue, Ron. *Master Your Money: A Step-By-Step Plan for Gaining and Enjoying Financial Freedom*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2004. 256 pages. ISBN 10-8024-8161-2.

Schaller, Lyle. *The New Context for Ministry: Competing for the Charitable Dollar*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2002. 340 pages. ISBN 0-687-06580-1.

Schneider, John. *Godly Materialism: Rethinking Money and Possessions*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994. 215 pages. ISBN 0-8308-1667-4.

Sider, Ron. *Rich Christians In an Age of Hunger: Moving from Affluence to Generosity*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1997. 333 pages. ISBN 0-8499-1424-8.

Recommended:

### Biblical Studies

Blomberg, Craig. *Neither Poverty Nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999. 300 pages. ISBN 0-8308-2600-9.

Bonk, Jonathan. *Missions and Money: Affluence As a Missionary Problem*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2006. 272 pages. ISBN 978-157-0-756-504

Johnson, Luke T. *Sharing Possessions: Mandate and Symbol of Faith*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1981. 160 pages. ISBN 0-8006-1534-4.

Murray, Andrew. *Money: A Biblical Perspective*. Goodyear, AZ: Digory Press, Inc., 2007. 107 pages. ISBN 978-1-84685-725-6.

### Church History

Gonzalez, Justo. *Faith and Wealth: A History of Early Christian Ideas on the Origin, Significance, and Use of Money*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1990. 240 pages. ISBN 1-57910-935-7.

John Paul II. *Centesimus Annus: The Economics of Human Freedom*. 1991. [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_01051991\\_centesimus-annus\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_01051991_centesimus-annus_en.html). 19 pages.

Muller, George and Mrs. George Muller. *The Life and Labors of George Muller and George Muller on Money and Possessions*. Bristol, England: Christian Communicators Worldwide, 2005. 161 pages. 978-0-9745253-1-6.

Wesley, John. *Sermons*: “The Use of Money (#50), The Good Steward (#51), and The Danger of Riches (#87)”. [http://wesley.nnu.edu/john\\_wesley/sermons/tjnum.htm](http://wesley.nnu.edu/john_wesley/sermons/tjnum.htm). 45 pages.

### Church Life/Programs

Barna, George. *How to Increase Giving in Your Church: A Practical Guide to the Sensitive Task of Raising Money for Your Church or Ministry*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1997. 184 pages. ISBN 0-8307-1921-0.

Wuthnow, Robert. *The Crisis in the Churches: Spiritual Malaise, Fiscal Woe*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1997. 291 pages. ISBN 0-19-511020-X.

### General Economics

Berger, Peter. *The Capitalist Revolution: Fifty Propositions About Prosperity, Equality and Liberty*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 1991. 262 pages. ISBN 0-465-00868-2.

Novak, Michael. *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism*. New York, NY: Touchstone, 1982. 434 pages. ISBN 0-671-43155-2.

Stapleford, John. *Bulls, Bears and Golden Calves: Applying Christian Ethics in Economics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002. 224 pages. ISBN 0-8308-2680-7.

#### Generosity

Alcorn, Randy. *The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 2001. 122 pages. ISBN 1-59052-508-6.

Blue, Ron. *Generous Living: Finding Contentment Through Giving*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 1997. 219 pages. ISBN 0-310-21090-9.

MacDonald, Gordon. *Secrets of the Generous Life*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2002. 133 pages. ISBN 0-8423-7385-3.

#### Lifestyle/Culture

Pieper, Joseph. *Leisure: The Basis of Culture*. New York, NY: Random House, 1963. 127 pages.

Warren, Elizabeth, and Amelia Tyagi, *The Two Income Trap: Why Middle-Class Mothers and Fathers Are Going Broke*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 2003. 253 pages. ISBN 0-465-09082-6.

Wuthnow, Robert. *God and Mammon in America*. New York, NY: The Free Press, 1994. 364 pages. ISBN 0-68-486391-X.

#### Personal Financial Planning

Blue, Ron. *Splitting Heirs: Giving Your Money and Things to Your Children Without Ruining Their Lives*. Chicago, IL: Northfield Publishing, 2004. 209 pages. ISBN 1-881273-05-9.

\_\_\_\_\_ and Judy Blue. *Your Kids Can Master Their Money: Fun Ways to Help Them Learn How*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2006. 255 pages. ISBN 10: 1-58997-191-4.

Dominguez, Joe and Vicki Robin. *Your Money or Your Life: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence*. New York, NY: Viking Penguin, 1992. 350 pages. ISBN 0-670-84331-8.

Moore, Gary. *Faithful Finances: From the Poverty of Fear and Greed to the Riches of Spiritual Investing*. Philadelphia, PA: Templeton Foundation Press, 2005. 228 pages. ISBN 1-932031-75-8.

Quinn, Jane Bryant. *Making the Most of Your Money*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 1997. 1066 pages. ISBN 0-684-81176-6.

### Spirituality and Discipleship

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York, NY: MacMillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1978. 352 pages.

Foster, Richard. *Freedom of Simplicity: Finding Harmony in a Complex World*. San Francisco, CA: HarperCollins Publishers, 2005. 254 pages. ISBN 13: 978-0-06-075971-1.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Money, Sex and Power: The Challenge of the Disciplined Life*. San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row, 1985. 260 pages. ISBN 0-06-062826-X.

May, Gerald. *Addiction and Grace: Love and Spirituality in the Healing of Addictions*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1988. 216 pages. ISBN 978-0-06-112243-9.

Tozer, A. W. *The Pursuit of God*. Harrisburg, PA: Christian Publications, 1982. 128 pages. ISBN 0-87509-223-3.

### Theology of Money/Possessions

Alcorn, Randy. *Money, Possessions and Eternity*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2003. 502 pages. ISBN 10-8423-5360-7.

Ellul, Jacques. *Money and Power*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1984. 173 pages. ISBN 0-87784-916-1.

Rodin, Scott. *Stewards in the Kingdom: A Theology of Life in All Its Fullness*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000. 224 pages. ISBN 0-8308-1576-7.

Schneider, John. *The Good of Affluence: Seeking God in a Culture of Wealth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2002. 233 pages. ISBN 0-8028-4799-4.

### Work/Business

Burkett, Larry. *Business by the Book: The Complete Guide of Biblical Principles for the Workplace*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1998. 292 pages. ISBN 0-7852-7141-4.

Novak, Michael. *Business as a Calling: Work and the Examined Life*. New York, NY: The Free Press, 1996. 246 pages. ISBN 0-684-82748-4.

## VIII. THE INSTRUCTOR

The Rev. Dr. Todd Cederberg, ChFC, is Senior Associate for Stewardship and Financial Ministries at The Church of the Good Samaritan in Paoli, PA. He was ordained in 1986. He specializes in the area of Financial Ministry. As a priest early on he recognized the financial pressure he himself felt trying to provide for his growing family, and so identified with the experience of numbers of his parishioners who were looking for help in this same area. As a result he pursued his Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California, graduating in 2004. His focus was on the theological and spiritual influence of money in the local church. Feeling the need to round out his education in the area of financial planning, he also completed a program of study through The American College, and was licensed as a financial planner (ChFC) in 2005. He currently serves on the board of the Christian Stewardship Network (CSN), a national organization that encourages stewardship and financial ministry in very large, evangelical congregations.