

# purpose FULL

Week 2 – Order Of Operations

This message series is all about **choosing to be purposeful** in the area of our finances. So many people long to be financially secure, to pay down debt, and to be generous; yet very few take the time to make a Biblical plan for their money. In this weeks' message we learned that there is a proper sequence for handling the resources that God places in our hands. The order really does matter. Getting the order right requires faith and a good plan.

## Sermon Outline:

3 steps to creating a great plan.

1. Know *where you are*.
  - a. Proverbs 27:23-27 ESV
  - b. Do you know where you are at financially?
2. Know *where you are going*.
  - a. Do you know where your current financial behaviour is taking you?
  - b. Do you know where you would like to end up financially? What God is calling you to?
3. Know *how you will get there*.
  - a. Do you know what steps you will need to take to get there?

### What makes a Biblical plan unique?

ANSWER: The order of operations

The natural order of operations:

1. Spend (current needs)
2. Save (future needs)
3. Give (God's plan/ others)

God's order of operations:

1. Give (Proverbs 3:9)
2. Save (Proverbs 21:20)
3. Spend (1 Tim. 6:17)

Putting God first requires a great deal of FAITH.

Will you make a financial plan for 2016 using God's order of operations?

It may not make sense, but it works!

Call to action:

**Goal Cards** → Prayerfully consider your goals for giving, saving, debt reduction for 2016.

## Suggested Discussion Questions:

- Would you say that you are a systematic person who is great at making plans, or a carefree soul who loves to live in the moment and be spontaneous? Explain.
- What is the worst plan you've ever come up with? Share some details ☺.
- Ranking yourself on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you score yourself on the three elements of a great plan? (e.g. 5 – I know where I am at financially, 8 – I know where I am going, 2 – I know how to get there)
- Do you think the order matters? What difference does it actually make? Discuss.
- Why do you think the scriptures include so many warnings about the love of money?
  - Hebrews 13:5 – Guard against the love of money.
  - Matthew 6:24 – No one can serve two masters.
  - 1 Timothy 6:17 – Don't trust in riches.
- Do you think that applying the Biblical order of operations to your personal budget could **help** keep money in it's rightful place?
- What do you think would qualify as saving for the future? How can you ensure that saving happens before spending?
- Is there a way to give & save **first** without:
  - Overspending afterwards.
  - Becoming a miser / having no fun.
- Will you purpose to set goals for each of these areas and create a plan for 2016 that gets your finances into the correct order?

## Additional Reading / Devotions:

- Money in its place (Ecclesiastes 5:10-20)
- Kingdom mindset (Matthew 6:31-33)
- Putting God first (Malachi 3:6-12)