SERMON: Settling the Ownership Issue

Series: Back in the Black

Pastor Derek Sanford

January 17, 2016

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Pastor Derek said that a summary of the Bible’s teaching about money could *begin* with the phrase, “If you don’t learn to control your money…“ What phrase did he say would *conclude* the biblical summary about money? (“…it will control you.”)
2. Read **Psalm 24:1.** Also read what God says about himself in **Psalm 50:12**. Discuss the meaning of “God owns it all.”
3. As followers of Jesus Christ, why would we regard the idea of a “self-made man” as false?
4. According to **Romans 1:6**, who do you belong to? What difference does that make in your life?
5. When we move from being a seeker to being a believer, we say, “God, I give you my heart and I give you my life?” What will God do with your heart and your life?
6. If your life were represented by a car, who is in the driver’s seat and who is in the passenger’s seat? Is God in the proper seat in your life right now?
7. Read **Deuteronomy 8:10-18**. What specific warnings did God give to the Israelites that remain relevant for us today?
8. Read **1 Corinthians 4:7** to find out why Pastor Derek said that Christians should always live in a state of gratitude.
9. If God is the owner of everything, who are the managers and what does God expect of them?
10. In what way is money a test? (Refer to **Matthew 6:21**.)
11. What is the “prosperity gospel” and what is the “poverty gospel,” and why did Pastor Derek say that they are both unbiblical? (“Poverty is not piety and wealth is not wickedness”)

**Application:**

* How might “settling the ownership issue” affect your prayer life?  **(Ephesians 5:20)**
* How might ‘settling the ownership issue” affect your generosity? (**Luke 12:15**)
* How might ‘settling the ownership issue” affect the fear you feel? (**Proverbs 11:28**)

**Challenge:**  Ask yourself: “If I truly believed that God was the owner and I was the manager, how would I approach my finances differently today?”

**Prayer Thought:** God in His goodness has given you everything you have, and He has made you everything you are. Ask God to show you His good and perfect will for your personal finances.