



Foundational

God's Plan for Financial Success

SAMPLE STUDY (pages 1-5)



Biblical Stewardship
series

STUDENT'S GUIDE 1

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in module two. Crown has multiple courses available but their basic small group study course is a must for every church in America interested in educating members on Biblical principals of finance.

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A R T H U R A L L Y

Arthur D. Ally is founder and President of the Timothy Plan, the nation's leading Biblically based, pro-life, pro-family mutual fund group. The Timothy Plan, launched in 1994, utilizes stringent moral screening criteria designed to avoid investing shareholders' money in companies that exhibit a pattern of contributing to the cultural pollution of society. Ally is a general partner of Timothy Partners Ltd. (the fund's sponsor/advisor.)

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Ally was formerly certified as both a financial planner and public accountant, and has been in the investment industry since 1978. Prior to forming Timothy, Ally operated his own financial planning firm, Covenant Financial Management, which he founded in 1990. He previously spent eight years with Shearson Lehman Brothers as vice president, branch manager and financial consultant, and also served five years with Prudential Bache in the same capacity. Throughout his career in the investment industry, Ally developed an expertise in money management selection through which he helps individuals, retirement plans and non-profit organizations define their investment objectives and conduct searches for professional money managers.

That money management selection expertise is ingrained in Ally's personal philosophy and that of the company, i.e., the "real key to good investment perform-

ance is good investment management." It is the overriding reason why no funds are added to The Timothy Plan (the firm presently offers a full family of mutual funds) until the company identifies and retains a top-tier money management firm specializing in that fund's asset category.

A much sought-after conference speaker, Ally presents seminars and workshops for Christian conventions throughout the United States. He has taught investment, financial, and estate planning classes at both the University of Central Florida and Seminole Community College and has been a host on two financially related radio programs, "Stand Up and Be Counted" and "Financial Focus."

Community and professional involvement includes:

- National Association of Christian Financial Consultants (co-founder and past president)
- Liberty Counsel of Florida (director)
- Christian Coalition of Florida (past director)
- Christian Coalition of Seminole County (past chairman and director)
- Christian Action Council of Central Florida (founder, past president and director)
- Life Chain of Central Florida (chairman 1992 and 1993)
- Active church leader having served as elder, deacon, and adult Sunday school teacher.

A graduate of Cleveland State University with degrees in accounting and finance, Ally and his wife, Bonnie, married since 1961, have three children and seven grandchildren.

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Let's meet Tim and Julie.

Throughout this seminar series we will follow the lives of Tim and Julie. Although Tim and Julie are married, the lessons they learn apply to everyone, whether you are a grandparent, single, or young adult.

Money

Why is it so important to God?

Holy Scripture offers more than 2,300 verses regarding money. Jesus devoted over _____% of His recorded words to this one subject. Why did the Savior of the world say more about how we should handle money and possessions than any other single thing? What did He know about money and possessions that we don't?

Richard Halverson, former chaplain for the U. S. Senate, offers a good response with this quote. "Jesus Christ said more about money than about any other single thing because, when it comes to a man's real nature, money is of first importance. Money is an exact index to a man's true character. All through Scripture there is an intimate correlation between the development of a man's character and how he handles his money."

Scripture tells us that God delegated authority to us over all His creation (see Gen. 1:28). Psalm 8:6-7 goes on to say, "You made him (man) ruler over the works of your hands; You put everything under his feet; all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field."

Then God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 1:28

God expects us to use the resources He gives us to best carry out our responsibilities. A steward's primary goal is to be found _____ by his master as the steward uses the master's resources to accomplish the tasks delegated to him (see 1 Cor. 4:2).

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:2

But what exactly is a steward? Recently, the word "stewardship" seems to have fallen on hard times. A steward is someone <entrusted> with another's wealth or property and charged with the responsibility of _____ it in the owner's best interest.¹ Stewardship isn't a subcategory of the Christian life. Stewardship _____ the Christian life.

By neglecting stewardship, not only are our spiritual lives at stake but also the wholeness of our families. Over _____% of all marriages end in divorce, and _____% of divorced people indicate that financial issues played a primary role in ending their marriage.² If we could get it right when it comes to money, how many other areas of our life would fall into place?

Let's introduce Tim and Julie, whose financial situation has been causing them trouble.



Visual/Audio Presentation (Video 1 of the Foundational module)



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