"BREAKING IT DOWN"

RECESSION-PROOF YOUR LIFE – PT. 2

Mark Hardacre

Key Thought: God Cares About Your Finances

*Jer 29:11 (NIV) For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to **prosper** you and not to harm you, plans to **give you hope and a future**.*

Prov 21:5 (NLT) Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

WHERE DOES OUR MONEY GO?

1. _____ - RETURNING THE _____

Mal 3:9-11 (NIV) *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse (church), that there may be food in my house. **Test me in this**," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty.*

2. _____

Prov 13:11 (NLT, NIV) Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears…but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.

3. _____

Rom 14:12 (NIV) So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

√ **_____ EVERYTHING**

Prov 27:23-24 (NLT) Know the state of your flocks , and put your heart into caring for your herds, for riches don't last forever.

√ **_____ YOUR MONEY**

Matt 25:23 (NLT) The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

√ **_____ CASH**

Prov 22:7 (NIV) The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

√ **_____ FOR A LITTLE WHILE**

Prov 25:28 (NIV) Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.

√ **_____ BEFORE YOU PAY**

Prov 3:5-6 (MSG) Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He's the one who will keep you on track.

1 Tim 6:17-19 (NIV) Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

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Digging Deeper: Small Group Questions …

1. If you won the lottery, what's one thing you do with the winnings?
2. Share about a time when you made a really good financial decision.
3. Share about a time when you make a really bad financial decision.
4. Do you manage your personal finances with a budget?
5. Of the 5 principles under Spending, which do you struggle with the most?
6. What are some action steps you can do this week to apply God's principles to your finances?