

going to the wilds of New Guinea will be much different from the missionary going to Europe.

- 3) It would be best for the prospective missionary to research the medical conditions of their desired field of service and visit with their doctor to see what kind of struggles they will face.

c. Disabilities

- 1) Of course, there are some physical handicaps that you can't completely overcome. The loss of a leg, an arm, or the crippling effects of an ailment.
- 2) These sometimes close the doors to missionary work. But not always.
- 3) Some fields, you may still be able to labour. There are some places and kinds of work where the possession of two arms or two legs is not essential to the work. Also, if you have a prosthetic limb and are well trained in its use, this would not be a limiting factor.

B. His Education (Proverbs 4:7; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10)

1. Two Kinds of Wisdom— The Bible teaches of two kinds of wisdom.

- a. Worldly Wisdom – James warns of a second wisdom. That it descends *“not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish”* (James 3:15)
  - 1) The importance God gave to His wisdom has now been transferred to all knowledge.
  - 2) We now have college classes where the students study and practice their skills in things that profit them nothing.
  - 3) We now have public schools that spend their time molding students' social skills and acceptance of people's gender or gender identity. We have an education system that does not educate.
  - 4) This happened when we bowed at the feet of the goddess called “Education.”
- b. True Wisdom – The wisdom God wants His people to get is the *“wisdom that is from above”* (James 3:17). According to James, this wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle and full of mercy and good fruits.

- 1) Parents spend thousands of dollars so their children can get an education. However, a true education cannot be purchased with money.
- 2) God's word states it best: "*Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart for it?*" – (Proverbs 17:16)
- 3) True learning requires a person to give their heart to it. It does not come by simply attending classes, or cramming for the latest exam, or because you received a degree. You gain wisdom and learning by diligently applying your heart and mind to the subject at hand.

## 2. Worldly Wisdom – Myths

- a. That Education Can Be Bought with Money (Proverbs 17:16)
- b. That Education Leads to Self-Understanding (Proverbs 18:2)
- c. That Education Can Be Finished (Ecclesiastes 12:12)
  - 1) True seekers of wisdom understand that they will never cease to learn.
  - 2) They know that they are on a journey that never ends
- d. That Education Leads to Happiness (Ecclesiastes 1:17-18)
- e. That Education Leads to Goodness (Isaiah 47:10)
- f. That Education Leads to Humility (1 Corinthians 8:1)
- g. That Education Leads to God's Truth (2 Corinthians 3:7)

## 3. Godly, Biblical Wisdom

- a. Christians are told from scripture to get knowledge, understanding and wisdom in large quantities. (Proverbs 4:7)
- b. The knowledge and wisdom God desires is founded on the "fear of the LORD" (Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10)
- c. Four Steps to wisdom as taught by Proverbs 18:1.
  - 1) *Desire*: You must have a desire to learn. Without this, you are wasting your time. Learning is hard work.
  - 2) *Separation*: Learning requires separation: separation from other people and separation from other duties. You must be prepared to spend time alone if you would be wise. Wisdom is given to the man who is alone with his thoughts, his books and his God.
  - 3) *Seeking*: Wisdom must be sought before it can be found. You cannot catch it as you would the flu. You must seek it. – (Jeremiah 29:13)

- 4) *Saturation*: The one who would be wise must intermeddle with all wisdom (Proverbs 18:1). In other words, you must intermingle your very being and mind with God's wisdom in order to attain unto it. It must become a part of who you are. (Colossians 3:16)

### C. His Debt (1 Timothy 6:6)

#### 1. Responsibility

- a. Give God your First
  - 1) We will not discuss the doctrine of giving in any detail. However, you must give to God and He must get the firstfruits of your labours—not the leftovers. Proverbs 3:9 tells us, *“Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.”*
  - 2) Do not expect God to help you if you are unwilling to bless Him with a portion of your income.
- b. Be Content with What You Have (1 Timothy 6:6)
  - 1) Lack of contentment is a sin. It's also the greatest cause of unnecessary debt.
  - 2) If it's your sin, then confess it to God and let Him help you change.
- c. Budget Your Income (Proverbs 27:23; 1 Corinthians 4:1)
  - 1) Stick to a budget.
  - 2) There are several systems and programs out there to help
  - 3) Budgeting is simply the careful use of your available resources
  - 4) Know how much is coming in and going out.
  - 5) Know where it's going
- d. Create an Emergency Fund (Proverbs 30:24)
  - 1) Create a savings account that is just for this.
  - 2) \$1k is a good number, this is enough to cover most minor emergencies. However, build from here.
    - i. Items to consider: fridge, stove, microwave, car repair, etc.
    - ii. You might say, “I'll just pay for it with my credit card.” Keep in mind (unless you pay it off

immediately), you will pay interest on that credit card.

iii. Stop going into debt!

## 2. Proportion

### a. Decrease Expenses

- 1) If you're spending more than your income, you're going into debt
- 2) If you continually spend more than your income, you're heading for disaster.
- 3) There are only two ways to fix this problem:
  - i. Increase income
  - ii. Decrease your outgo

### b. Learn to Judge Real Value and Costs

### c. Set Your Financial Priorities

### d. Make the Tough Decisions

### e. Plan for Lean Times

## 3. Conclusions

### a. Be responsible

- 1) Be the right kind of steward
- 2) God has blessed you with what you have, use such things wisely
- 3) You are a shining example of God, live in front of others that way

### b. Don't expect God's people to get you out of debt

- 1) You got yourself here in the first place
- 2) You are responsible for your own actions

## D. His Commission from his Church

### 1. His commission

a. Define: *Commission*: "The act of committing or entrusting a person, group, etc. with supervisory power or authority." "An authoritative order, charge, or direction." "Authority granted for a particular action or function."

### b. Scriptural definition:

- 1) Saul's commission from the chief priests (Acts 26:12)
- 2) Commissions given unto lieutenants and governors (Ezra 8:36)

### c. The commission for the missionary (Acts 13:1-3)

- 1) The sending church grants the missionary the authority to go unto the field which they are called to.

- 2) The sending church is entrusting them with the work that they (the missionary) have been called to by God.

2. His ordination

- a. Define: *Ordain*: “To give order.” “To select for or appoint to an office.”
  - 1) Ordination is seen to approve a man for the work of the ministry in whatever capacity God places him.
  - 2) Paul mentioned the laying on of hands and the presbytery as giving authority to Timothy and the work that he was called into (1 Timothy 4:14; 1 Timothy 5:22; 2 Timothy 1:6)
  - 3) Ordination sets a man apart from the congregation as one especially called to be a man of God.
  - 4) An ordination usually is given for a specific work that God has called a man into.
- b. In some cases, a commission may go along with an ordination.

E. His Home Base

1. Sending Church

- a. In a supporting role
  - 1) Helps support the missionary
  - 2) To support the missionary financially at greater amount than other missionaries from other churches
  - 3) To encourage the missionary on a regular basis
  - 4) To help the missionary in any way while they are on deputation
- b. In a direct role
  - 1) In modern society it has become more possible than ever for the sending church to come to the aid of the missionary
  - 2) Short-term mission’s trips
    - i. Evangelizing trips
    - ii. Building trips
  - 3) Missions assistance activities – can include many activities that can use a host of secular skills in order to give aid to a missionary.
    - i. Travel agents for missionaries
    - ii. Insurance for missionaries
    - iii. Printing ministries for missionaries
    - iv. Shipping services for missionaries

- v. Preparation of missionary displays, video presentations, etc.
  
- c. Direct witnessing (Psalm 68:11)
  - 1) Internet/websites
  - 2) Satellite television
  - 3) Satellite radio
  - 4) Radio