

# First Things First

## BLESSED

- Happy, content, fulfilled, rich (fully supplied or more than enough)
- Enjoying friends and/ or family
- Meaningful work and/or service
- The blessed life cannot be defined by income or net worth, but certainly can include both.
- Not all paths to financial increase are righteous or blessed.
- There is a righteous and holy way to be blessed.
- We serve the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who were all extremely wealthy.
- Job, David and Solomon were also extremely wealthy.
- While the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, the Proverbs provide ample instruction to avoid poverty and to acquire wealth.
- Bible has 500 verses on prayer, 500 on faith & 2000 on money and possessions.
- Jesus talked about money in 16 of 38 parables.
- Pastors are deathly afraid to talk about money for fear of offending parishioners. YET, the Bible will often offend our flesh and challenge our selfish notions.
- How you handles money reveals much about your priorities, loyalties & affections. It directly affects many of the blessings you will or won't experience in life.

## 3 John 2

### FIRST FRUITS

- **Proverbs 3:9-10**
- Firstborn
  - **Exodus 13:2, 12-13**
  - **John 1:29:** God sacrificed his first and best. Not only did he receive his son back, but also received millions of souls in return.
  - **Romans 8:29:** Jesus was The Father's tithe
- First belongs to God.
- First thing given is never lost.
- Often, when we don't give first, we never give at all, or we give only left-overs.
- First portion is the redemptive portion.
  - **Matthew 16:24-27**
  - Whiners and takers often lack. Joyous givers seldom lack and live in abundance.

### SUNDAY

- Sunday is the first day of the week, not the weekend.
- **Matthew 6:33,** "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."
- It is shameful and detrimental that so often people give the first fruits of their time to recreation.

- Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week. We worship on the first day of the week.
- We bring the tithe to the Lord's house on the Lord's day.
- **Exodus 23:19**, "The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God."
- God first, then our business.
- God is not trying to take something from you, he is trying to get something to you.

#### **LAW OF PROCESS**

- In anything that you do, there is a process – and that process takes time. You cannot accelerate the process, bypass steps in the process, etc – the process is, the process.
- In many issues, the process demands that steps be followed in proper order, from assembling furniture and other items, developing sports skills, to baking pies.
- You must put first things first.
- God gets our first and our best, our time, talent and our money. In turn, we receive a BLESSED LIFE!