

FINANCIAL HOPE

Find Freedom in Your Finances
Through God's Word



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RON BLUE
INSTITUTE
For Financial Planning

The Ron Blue Institute for Financial Planning exists to equip people to understand biblical principles of finance so that they can live lives fully devoted to following Jesus.

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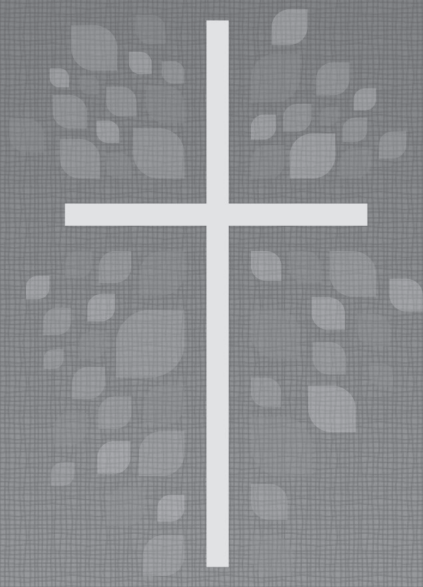
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God Owns It All

PSALM 24:1

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world,
and all who live in it.*

Have you ever considered the implications of Psalm 24:1? If everything in the world, including us, is God's, how does that affect how we live? John Wesley is a man who took this truth to heart in how he lived.

Born in 1703, the 15th of 19 children, John Wesley is best known as one of the founders of the Methodist church. He was so intent on getting the word of God into the hands of as many people as possible that he wrote short booklets and sold them for pennies. The demand for these booklets was remarkable and John Wesley became wealthy. Despite his significant wealth, Wesley never increased his lifestyle. In fact, he gave away any excess money he ever had. Not only was

Wesley generous with his money, he was also generous with his time. He is said to have ridden more than 250,000 miles and preached more than 40,000 sermons. He died at the age of 88 surrounded by friends and having given away nearly all his money. He believed that all he had was God's and lived this way with abandon. John Wesley had much and he gave much. He lived a life fully devoted to God.

The way we live our lives reflects our beliefs about God. Wesley's life reflected His belief in God's goodness and generosity. When we say we believe something, but our lives do not reflect that belief, then we are living inconsistently. Most Christians wouldn't hesitate to say that God owns everything. However, most of us live drastically differently from that belief.

Until our lives reflect our belief that God is the owner and provider of all things (money, time, intellect, relationships, etc.), our hearts will be closed off to the powerful work that God can do through our money. The world wants us to believe that our things are ours and we can do with them whatever we want. This mentality is the opposite of God's revealed reality.

When we live consistently with our belief that God owns it all, we begin seeing ourselves as stewards and not owners. We go from exercising the final say over our things to seeking God's will in all things. How we respond to God's ownership affects our relationship with Him. If we do not align our lives with this reality, then we will always feel like we are fighting against God for control of our things. When our lives reflect the belief of God's ownership, we become free to live lives like John Wesley's as we seek to glorify God in all things.

EXPLORING PSALM 24:1

Who owns the earth and all who live on it?

What does this reality imply about God, about you, and about your circumstances?

“The earth is the Lord’s”

Read JOB 38:1-11. What things has God done and known that we cannot grasp?

How does God’s overwhelming knowledge give you confidence to live the life that He has given you?



How does God's infinite understanding of creation shape your view about the ownership of your life and your things?

“And everything in it”

According to PSALM 50:9-12, does God lack anything? Why is that significant?

If everything is already God's, what is the significance of offering anything (our lives, our money, etc.) back to Him?

Read DEUTERONOMY 8:10-18. What is the danger of failing to acknowledge God as the provider and owner of all that you have?



Verse 10 tells us to bless the Lord for the things He has given us. How does a spirit of gratitude help reinforce your belief that God is the provider of everything?

How might having a spirit of entitlement and ownership affect your relationship with God?

“The world, and all who live in it”

Read MATTHEW 25:14-30. Who gave the slaves their talents and to whom were the slaves required to repay those talents?

Is there a greater or lesser burden you feel when you are caring for someone else’s possessions instead of your own? Why do you feel that way?



Do you experience fear or excitement when you consider that God has entrusted His resources to you?

APPLYING PSALM 24:1

How can your behavior provide evidence that you believe God owns everything? List one or two practical ways you can work out this belief.

Take a few moments to thank God for all He has given you, specifically noting a few of the material blessings you enjoy.

