Kingdom Finance: 20 Principals behind Christian Prosperity (Part 1)

Christian Prosperity:

- Did you know that there are over 2000 versus in scripture that deal with Finances? Do you think money and provision is important to God?
- Why do Churches never discuss this from a God perspective? We are going to do that tonight. 20 Principals to understand and follow will be covered in the first 2 sessions.
- The third session will cover practical real things you should be doing. That session will cover debt, budgeting, myths about finance (e.g. your credit score), how to prioritize your financial decisions. Don't miss this!
- But first we have to understand the biblical provisions. They underly our actions
- Many believe that poverty is Godly. They believe it destroys humility. That it can draw us away from God. And it can. Often lies have elements of truth. Satan is the father of lies!
- The fact is that financial prosperity can draw us from God when it is the WORLD's system of prosperity when we just say I want lots of nice things, more money, new cars, a big house, etc. "Hey I'll give this a try." That is where the prosperity teachers go wrong.
- Motivation. It parallels good works. DO we do good works to be saved or do we do good works because we've been saved? Do we want wealth to meet our wants or is it to advance the Kingdom?
- Use the parent/child test. Would you want your child to be poor if they can properly handle wealth? Of course not! Same with the Lord.
- Would you want your child to have wealth if they couldn't properly handle wealth? That's a different story. So we need to understand Godly principals.
- God's system of prosperity can be found in His Word. It follows God's laws of Prosperity, which is what we will discuss.
- A simple example that you all know is 1 Timothy 6:10, which states it's not money but the *love* of money which is the root of all evil. Why? Because we are putting it ahead of God making it, or the things it can buy, an idol. The Principal is what are you putting first? God or mammon? That Principal goes beyond money.
- God created all the wealth of this earth. Did He create it for those who don't Know the Lord, who disobey Him? Does He want them to prosper while His children are in need? That makes no sense. The INTENT is for you to have it. We're going to discuss

why you may not have it, But we better first realize that his intent is for you to have it!

- The Father son Principal helps here as it will throughout this discussion. He wants what's best for his children as you do for your kids.
- God Himself is prosperous. All wealth belongs to Him and we are to partake in His
 divine nature!
- 2Peter chapter 1 says we have been given exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature.
- Did not God already give EVERYTHING for us? Jesus death was a big price!
- Romans 8:32: He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?
- Many men in Scripture who followed God's laws of prosperity were quite wealthy.
 Abraham was a good example. It says in Genesis 13 that He was rich in livestock, silver and gold
- This even applies to us,
- **Galatians 3:29.** And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.
- We are Abrahams heirs if we follow those same laws Abraham did. You can assume we are meant for abundance unless we are doing things to block it. If your great aunt dies and leaves you money in a properly constructed will, you will receive it unless you fail to live up to the conditions stated in the will!
- God even gives us the power to be wealthy as part of his covenant!
- **Deut 8:18**: And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may westablish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.
- His covenant is like a contract so the will analogy is actually a very good one!
- In that chapter of Deuteronomy, the Lord is making it clear that it is not by your own hand but from God that we can be wealthy. We must be good stewards, as we will discuss. And that results in the fulfillment of His promises because He knows we are able to handle wealth. By following God's principals, wealth is put in its proper perspective!
- Note the condition and the statement of (italics) in Psalm 112 after the word who:

• Psalms 112: 1-3.

Praise the LORD!

Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,

Who delights greatly in His commandments.

² His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed. ³ Wealth and riches *will be* in his house, And his righteousness ⊎endures forever.

Clearly the Lord wants us to prosper! The conditions reveal the first principal

Principal 1: fear the Lord and delight in His commandments. This is a call for obedience! Not just the word, but listening to the Holy Spirit. We must get our house in order if we seek prosperity. This principal is #1 for a reason.

 Proverbs 3:1-2 (Amp): My son, do not forget my ateaching, But let your heart keep my commandments;

For length of days and years of life [worth living] And tranquility *and* prosperity [the wholeness of life's blessings] they will add to you.

- We should not be saying, "well, I'm a sinner saved by grace." NO! The Holy Spirit empowers us to resist the devil and he will flee! By God's grace we can get our house in order. And, with the Holy Spirit, this is why grace can be defined as God's enabling power!
- If we follow His laws Psalm 84:11 applies: For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
 The LORD will give grace and glory;

No good *thing* will He withhold From those who walk uprightly

- And he loads us with benefits
- Again, this refers back to Principal 1. We don't just follow his commandments, we delight in them!
- By the way, many wealth examples in Scripture: Joseph of Arimethia (a disciple) and Solomon., Even Adam had everything he needed. Although he forfeited everything he was given. But Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil -1 John 3:8- and in doing so restored his authority and even our authority to have dominion over the earth! Our wealth can be restored /redeemed through Christ too. We need to claim our inheritance! Look at
- **2 Corinthians 8:9**. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
- It says that Jesus was wealthy and became poor for our sakes; through his poverty we may become rich. Is this really about finances or is it about spiritual riches. It's probably both but it is DEFINITELY about finances! Why? Because chapters 8 and 9

- deal with finances. That is the context! Chapter 8 is about giving to the church and chapter 9 is about giving to the poor.
- This makes sense: With the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we 1) regain dominion over the earth, 2) by the stripes of Jesus we ARE healed, 3) we receive and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit including performing miracles just as Jesus did or even greater works according to John 14:12., 4) as it says in 2 Corinthians 8:9, our wealth and prosperity can also be restored!

Was Jesus poor?

- This verse says Jesus became poor. Doesn't say he was poor. He even gave up his
 clothing. Roman soldiers gambled for it because the seamless one piece tunic was
 actually expensive.
- As a carpenter he may have been poor. But during his ministry, the evidence is different.
- 12 disciples and 70 others with him were provided for. In his ministry, He Even had a treasurer! May not have been the best choice.
- Supernaturally Jesus fed 5000 with fishes and loaves with basketfuls left over.
- Jesus paid tax collectors for Peter (Matt 17:27) from a coin in a fish Peter caught!
 And that wasn't the first time Jesus caused a bountiful catch of fish that broke the nets.
- I do think that many of Jesus' miracles involve actions by others! He could have paid the temple tax out of the treasury box but Peter found it in the fish as instructed. I'm sure he didn't want the disciples to think he would just create money for them. Same with the catch that his disciples caught when Jesus told them to cast their net one more time. He could have had the fish jump in the boat! But they were involved and pulled the fish into the boat..
- Jesus supernaturally provided a donkey to ride into Jerusalem (as prophesied) and was even able to have the upper room provided supernaturally to celebrate the last supper the Passover before his crucifixion.
- (By the way, the disciples were involved in those miracles too there is co-laboring here. We are involved in many of God's miracles and spiritual gifts such as laying on of our hands in healing or speaking in tongues with our own utterances).
- There is an important principle here of co-laboring.
- Notice that Jesus only got what he needed. No earthly wants or material assets here. But He got ALL he needed.

• Jesus made it clear that he could do nothing without the father and in this way, we can do the same. He tells us we can do greater works than these! (Rom 8:11) We can pray for what we need. So the second Principal involves co-laboring and it comes from James 4:2:

Principal 2: We have not because we ask not!

- Jesus relied on the father. He followed God's laws of prosperity and relying on the father is one of them.
- **John 14:13-14:** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.
- This principal does not automatically mean you will get it. You need to be following the other principals, especially #1. It may not be in your best interest. You may be a poor steward of Kingdom resources. You may get it but not at the time you think you should. In His name means there is alignment between our will and God's will. Is this the case in your particular situation? Following these principals will help align us with God's will.
- Yes we can enjoy prosperity. But only if we employ the same principal that Jesus did: "He sought God's will for his provision, asking Him first. We do this by asking and also by going through the word to understand the promises that God provides, the conditions that He asks for and finally we must have the right heart. What is the motivation of our ask. More coming on this...The principal holds however. We should ask.

• Principal 3: Putting God First.

- We talked about the prosperity movement. When we want the 200K sports car are we putting God first? Nothing wrong with a sports car unless we are putting it and other things ahead of God. This brings us to the scripture which is our main theme:
- Matt 6:33: But seek first *the kingdom of God* and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
- Are we putting God first? Do we start each day in prayer, study of the word and meditation? Do I put God ahead of each member of my family and friends? Do I spend more time in pursuit of God than I do television or some other hobby? Is there a possession or possessions that I think more about than God? Do I think of my job more? My wealth or my money more? Is God more important than financial

- prosperity? Than sex? Than gambling or some other vice/sin? Thou shalt have no other Gods before me it says in Exodus 20. This gets to idolatry,
- You are thinking, what about work. WE CAN put our work before God. But not when our work is part of your calling. Then working can be part of putting Him first! This is important. Don't think that if you are working full time that must mean you are making work your idol! God wants you to make a living, But you may want to think about what your attitude to your work is. This begs the question:
- Can we be called to a profession?
 Most of us think that God calls us into the five-fold, or into a specific ministry but
 what about tother vocations? We are called to those too! First, how often do we
 think we aren't qualified for a job or a role.
- Think about David! When Samuel approached Jesse's house and met his first son Eliab, he thought this was surely God's anointed choice, but we read in
- **1 Samuel 16:7** But the Lord said to Samuel, "do not consider this appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."²
- There were 6 older brothers that seemed far more suited. But Samuel said "nope", they were not God's choice. "Have you got any other brothers here?" And that left David. And by the world's standard, he was not the choice. He was the youngest, the runt of the litter! and was out tending the sheep.
- So David was called and this was not a ministry position. He was called into political leadership! And we may be called by God into our professions.
- Also important here is that God called David into political leadership, not the ministry. And we absolutely can be called to our professions.
- The Hebrew language supports this concept! Look at the Hebrew word for ministry:
 Sharat
- Sharat means service. Sharat is used to describe what the priests do in serving as God's representatives to the people and the peoples' representatives to God. So, while Israel was created and called to be a people of God through whom all nations would be blessed, God designated Moses' brother Aaron and his male heirs (Exod. 28:35, 43, 39:1) and the Levites (Num. 18:2; Deut. 10:8) to perform specific functions in the worship and service of God within Israel.³ So anything we do in service to others is a kind of Sharat. Our jobs can be our sharat!

- A more general word is *Avad*, which can mean "in service of the king" OR "work" or "work the ground." Again, a link between "work" and "service". It also means to worship! So there is actually a link between work, service and worship!
- And don't forget, where God guides, He provides! (Is 58:11). So if you are called to the ministry, God generally provides where He calls.
- Back to the third principal of putting God first. This includes fear and humility
- Proverbs 22:4 says: By humility and the fear of the LORD
 Are riches and honor and life.
- When we put God first, we also treat Him with respect by humility and by fear we mean (from the Hebrew Yah-rah) giving the Lord your undivided attention (Psalm 86:11), giving God unrivaled awe (Psalm 47:2) and unparalleled allegiance (Deut 10:12).
- All of that is putting God first.
- **Principal 4: Pray into the promises!** No need to pray "if it be your will" when we understand His will from Scripture. Declare it! Pray into the prosperity God has for you. You have dominion. You are the blood bought son or daughter of the most high. Pray into and declare the abundance that God has for you.
- Instead of being problem centered, be God centered. Focus on his promises not your problems. This means knowing the Word to find out what God has already promised you. This talk will help you see some of these promises.

Principal 5: Understand that God Owns Everything

- **1 Timothy 6:7:** For we brought nothing into *this* world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
- **Deut 10:14:** Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, *also* the earth with all that *is* in it.
- Haggai 2:8: The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD of hosts
- **Duet 8:18:** And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may westablish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

- Duet 8:18 makes it clear that not only our possessions not ours but in fact, God has
 provided us with everything that we have. This is an important concept that we must
 consciously understand. Get away from thinking that you are the only reason for
 your success. Yes, the Lord gives you certain skills. But God is not just the author of
 our salvation. He is the author of our prosperity!
- **Principal 6: Be careful not to be proud of whatever wealth you have!** Be satisfied that you worked hard but not proud that that hard work produced the big bonus.
- Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NIV): Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches,
 ²⁴ but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth,

declares the LORD.

for in these I delight,"

- If we want to boast, boast that we know the Lord! This is all about shifting away from self and toward God!
- Without this and other principals it is indeed harder for a wealthy man to enter the kingdom of heaven.
- Mark 10:25 shows how hard. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."
- However, the night gates had a small door that a traveler could get through called the eye of the needle. One at a time – not hordes of soldiers. Required camel to be unloaded of all earthly goods and be on his knees to get through. This tells you everything you need to know! Not impossible but difficult and requirements which reflect the principals that we are covering here.
- Principal 7: Being good steward of what we have: So, we are to be good stewards
 of what we are given. Why would our father give us unwisely? Do we even budget?
 We will get into how to be good stewards in the third session. I promise I will get very
 specific. But we must be responsible with our finances.
- Mathew 25:20-21: So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' ²¹ His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

- This shows the importance of being a good steward of what we are given. We should not put money under the mattress but invest. Invest wisely. Kingdom investments are some of the best! That includes tithes and offerings!
- But doesn't the story below mean God doesn't want us to have wealth?:
- Matthew 19:17-22: if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ He said to Him, "Which ones? Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' ¹⁹ 'Honor your father and *your* mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "²⁰ The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.
- Doesn't this passage mean wealth is impossible for the kingdom. Not at all. Jesus with a word of knowledge knew that this man was putting wealth in front of God. That was his stumbling block. It need not be yours! WHAT IS YOURS??
- Why would the Lord want us to be good stewards of wealth if he didn't want us to have wealth??

What blocks us from receiving wealth?

- World believes all will be well if they can just get wealth. Not true. If we cannot be content without wealth, we won't be with it: Ecclesiastes 5:10. Says we will still be empty inside:
- **Ecclesiastes 5:10 (AMP)**: He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance *with its* gain. This too is vanity (emptiness).
- Sorrow comes from the love of money. 1 Timothy 6:10
- Psalm 10:3 says Coveting what others have also blocks us from receiving wealth.
- When we hate covetousness we prolong our days too (Proverbs 28:16)
- Be careful of the get-rick quick schemes!
- Proverbs 28:22: A man with an evil eye hastens after riches,
 And does not consider that poverty will come upon him.
- I have seen this many times. Ron, this investment is a sure winner! I know a minister who is enamored with bit coin and day trades silver! Both of these are the modern example of get rich quick schemes. More in third session on this.

- Not trusting in God for finances but relying on ourselves, get rich quick scheme, banking institutions, even the economy, etc. Lets rely on God. Please. This suggests another principal:
- Principal 8: we must rely on God not ourselves (although we can put ourselves in the middle of God's plans for us!) or other institutions or schemes for wealth
- Complete self sufficiency means we are turning from God and to ourselves. We should be self sufficient through our obedience and reliance on God not selves.
- Principal 9: don't over accumulate or hoard;: Over accumulation of riches blocks us:
- Ecclesiastes 5:12-13: The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, Whether he eats little or much;
 But the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep.
 13 There is a severe evil which I have seen under the sun: Riches kept for their owner to his hurt.
- This doesn't mean we shouldn't plan. Look at Joseph 7 years of prepping. Look at Proverbs 21:20:
- **Proverbs 21:20 (ESV):** Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it.
- Property, bank accounts, investment accounts are not wrong. But when we rely only
 on them, on financial cushions and not the Lord, we can get into trouble. And The
 more we amass, the more we show who we trust in! That doesn't mean we shouldn't
 save for retirement. We should! But plan for it. Don't do it out of fear. Be smart.
- Hoarding for hard times is fearful. It is preoccupation with ourselves. Evidence of the sin of self-sufficiency. Some supplies are fine but overdoing it suggests we don't believe that God will provide!
- 1 Timothy 6:17-18: Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,
- Hoarding is fear based. And so can gathering gold. It can be part of an allocation but remember you cant use gold in the supermarket. When everyone with gold is selling it to buy groceries the market impact will be severe.
- **Principal 10: Do plan for future generations.** We want to leave an inheritance:
- **Proverbs 13;22**: A good *man* leaves an inheritance to his children's children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.

- This takes careful stewardship and wise planning.
- **Principal 11: Take care of others especially the poor:** Failure to help others. You can even lend to a brother but See Deuteronomy 15
- **Deut 15:1-2:** At the end of *every* seven years you shall grant a arelease *of debts*. ² And this *is* the form of the release: Every creditor who has lent *anything* to his neighbor shall arelease *it*; he shall not arequire *it* of his neighbor or his brother, because it is called the LORD's release
- One place where lending is ok. Family, believers. But note the jubilee system. Every 7 years debts are cancelled so this is not debt in the traditional sense. Loans are not the same as what we think of. There is forgiveness. These are really gifts the way we think about them.
- Many Scriptures on helping the poor:
- **Proverbs 28:27** Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.
- **Galatians 2:10** Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.
- **Proverbs 14:21** Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.
- I believe we can do this directly or indirectly through the institutions we give to like King of Kings. But doing the latter does not absolve us of our Kingdom responsibilities. I will cover the principal of sowing wisely a little later.
- Principal 12: Watch for A Spirit of Poverty(you may need deliverance):
- Proverbs 6:9-11: How long will you @slumber, O sluggard?
 When will you rise from your sleep?
 ¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber,
 A little folding of the hands to sleep—

- ¹¹ So shall *your poverty* come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.
- If you get into agreement, this poverty spirit can claim you and your generations. 1) Laziness, just a little a little sleep, a little slumber.
- The word for sleep in Hebrew is shehah, and it also refers growing old without vision or dream for a future. It's a mindset!
- A little slumber can be drowsiness or even depression. A spirit of poverty can determine our destiny and future!
- Folding of the hands is the Hebrew word Chibug and it means idleness
- Poverty in this verse isn't a condition. It's an armed man, a prowler, a spirit!
- The prowler is walking to and fro looking for entry! Searching for a legal right to enter. The armed man is Magen in Hebrew and it means shield. This enemy in its efforts to devour us is a protected enemy because of the right we give it to legal access! We can break this!
- If we are taken by this armed man, note
- Luke 11:21-22: When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. ²² But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his aspoils.
- Look and reverse laziness. Don't refuse correction and instruction to avoid the enemy's legal right to be there.
- · Reverse addictive behavior:
- **Proverbs 23:21:** For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe *a man* with rags.
- If this relates to a bloodline or lineage, you must break it off. Do you see much poverty in your family history? That's a clue. You may have to repent for yourself and your ancestors.
- Do you have thoughts like "well I'm poor but my whole family is. This is just my family situation." You need to break that right now! Claim the prosperity that God has given you at the cross. Break the generational curse if it exists in your history. Please contact our deliverance ministry if this sounds like your situation. Get a check up from the neck up!
- Immorality is another way to grant the poverty spirit a right of access:
- Proverbs 6:26: For by means of a harlot
 A man is reduced to a crust of bread;
 And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life

- Same generational issues apply.
- Other parts of this teaching get into giving; I will just say that a lack of giving can also be evidence of a poverty spirit and can allow the enemy entry.
- Finally any habitual sin can be an entry point. Don't hesitate to get some help if you are struggling.

Kingdom Finance: 20 Principles

Fear the Lord and Delight in His Commandments (Obedience) Proverbs 3:1-2 Psalms 84:11 2 Corinthians 8:9 We have not Because we ask not! John 14:13-14 The Lord is always FIRST Matthew 6:33

4. Pray into his promises not your problems

5. Remember that the Lord owns EVERYTHING

1 Timothy 6:7

Proverbs 22:4

Deuteronomy 10:14

Haggai2:8

Deuteronomy 8:18

6. Do not be proud concerning any wealth you have

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Mark 10:25

7. Be a good Steward

Matthew 25:20-21

Matthew 19:17-22

8. Rely on God for your finances!

9. Don't Over-accumulate or hoard

Ecclesiastes 5:12-13

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Proverbs 21:20
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1 Timothy 6:17-18

10. Plan for future generations

Proverbs 13:22

11. Take care of others

Deuteronomy 15:1-2

Proverbs 28:27

Galatians 2:10

Proverbs 14:21

12. Watch for/Be wary of a poverty Spirit

Proverbs 6:9-11

Luke 11:21-22

Proverbs 23:21

Proverbs 6:26

13. Importance of Renewing our Minds

3 John 2

Psalms 19:7

3 John 2-3

Mark 7:13

2 Corinthians 10:5

Philippians 4:8

Joshua 1:8

Psalms 1:1-3

1 Timothy 4:15

Proverbs 23:7

Deuteronomy 11:18

Philippians 4:6-7

Isaiah 55:11

14 Practicing/Doing God's Word

Matthew 7:24-27

James 1:22

Ezekial 36:26-27

Philippians 2:13

James 1:25

1 Kings 2:3

Isaiah 1:19

Proverbs 3:1-2

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

15 The Law of Sowing and Reaping/Seed, Time and Harvest

Mark 4:26-27

Matthew 7:12

Genesis 8:22

2 Corinthians 9:6

Ephesians 6:8

2 Corinthians 9:8

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

John 12:24

16 Importance of Tithes and Offerings

Deuteronomy 14:23

Proverbs 3:9-10

Malachi 3:8-11

John 8:39

Matthew 23:23
Luke 6:38
Ephesians 4:28

Acts 20:35

17 Giving Cheerfully and Quietly

Matthew 6:1-4

18 When Giving, give generously but sow carefully in good soil

Proverbs 22:9

Proverbs 28:27

Psalms 112:5

19 Importance of Proportional Giving

Mark 12:41-44

2 Corinthians 8:12

20 When you sow your seeds, cultivate and be patient

Haggai 1:6-7

3 John 2

Galatians 6:9

Hebrews 10:36

Mark 10:29-30