



## Advanced Biblical Study – Faith and Money

BBST 450-08 Tuesday  
Fall 2017

### PROFESSOR/CLASS INFORMATION

**Rick Bee Ph.D.**

Faith and Money: A Practical Theology  
Term: Fall 2017  
Location: Rose Hall 002  
Office Phone: (562) 903-4737  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
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Course Code: BBST 450 08  
Course Meets: Tuesday, 3:00 pm – 5:50 pm  
Credit Hours/Units: 3 hours  
Office Location: Alumni Offices in Metzger Hall  
Meetings with Professor: Make Appointment via email  
Admin Assistant: Lara Hurlburt, Extension 4737  
Dept. Website: <http://biola.edu/academics/bible>

### DISABILITY SERVICES

Disability Services exist to assist any student who thinks he or she may need such assistance. Students desiring accommodations for this class on the basis of physical learning, psychological and/or emotional disabilities are to contact The Learning Center which houses both learning assistance and disability services. The Learning Center is located in the Biola Library, Upper Level, Room U-137, and this department can be reached by calling 562.906.4542 or by dialing extension #4542 if calling from “on campus.”

### NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The University deplores the unfair treatment of individuals based on race, gender, socio-economic status, age, physical disability, or cultural differences, regardless whether such treatment is intentional or simply resultant from careless or insensitive behavior. Rather, employees and members of the student body should embrace the expectation of Scripture to love God with all their being and their neighbors as themselves.

### BIOLA UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

#### TRUTH~TRANSFORMATION~TESTIMONY

The mission of Biola University is biblically-centered education, scholarship, and service; equipping men and women in mind and character to impact the world for the Lord Jesus Christ.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

**BBST 450 08 Advanced Biblical Study: Faith and Money:** As a key component of life and spiritual formation, the *Faith & Money* course seeks to explore key theological themes and biblical texts related to personal use of money and possessions with the outcome of integrating these key theological and Biblical principles into the students' value system that leads to life-change. Attention will be placed on practical implementation of biblical financial principles in the students' life development and vocation. Topics to be covered: materialism & spirituality, eternity, honesty, work/vocation, giving & spirituality, counsel, saving, and debt.

Offered every semester.

## COURSE ALIGNMENT WITH PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

**BBST 450 08 Advanced Biblical Study: Faith and Money:** This upper division course is an elective course offered to all majors designed to be taken within the Junior or Senior years of an academic program. Successful completion of this course (see next section) will prepare students to demonstrate an exemplary proficiency toward the accomplishment of biblical values and PLO:

*VALUES [WHAT WE BELIEVE IS IMPORTANT]*

*Values ⇒ Actions ⇒ Lifestyle*

1. Scripture is authoritative in all areas it speaks to and the guidebook for life.
2. Integration of our faith with confidence into both corporate and individual lives.
3. Utilization of general revelation as appropriate for faith and life development.
4. Process of growth in knowledge (mind), being (character) and impact (practice) for God's glory.
5. Progressively being transformed into the likeness of Christ on a daily basis.
6. Transformation of culture for Christ through the impact of our daily lives in our sphere of influence.

With the completion of this course, the student will integrate into their values, actions, and lifestyle the necessary skills and knowledge of the biblical models for money management, stewardship, work, investing, and financial counsel, ultimately becoming stewardship educators for their families, friends and the church.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

*By the completion of this course including class participation, class assignments (referred to as "Tasks"), class readings and group interaction, the following objectives and learning outcomes will be assessed and demonstrated:*

**IDEA Objective #3:** Learning to apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decision making regarding financial decisions and money management.

***Give 1<sup>st</sup> ⇒ Save 2<sup>nd</sup> ⇒ Live 3<sup>rd</sup>***

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES** [WHAT I WANT FOR YOU]

As a result of participating in this course, and the diligent completion of the course assignments, the student should achieve objective #3 when they:

1. Think biblically & theologically *for personal application* through the identification and articulation of three key foundational themes related to Faith & Money stating how these themes are interrelated to thinking and actions. [Readings, & personal scripture study; lectures] (Cognitive)
2. Integrate scriptural truth related to the seven key areas of practice of our stewardship of money into your way of life (daily) and vocation (what you do). [Stewardship project; Journal; Readings; Scripture study; Practical assignments] (Cognitive/behavioral)
3. Critically discern false cultural/media ideology and impressions about money, possessions, success, worth, happiness and values from what biblical truth says about those themes through implementing the decision making process (skills). [Class discussions, Journals; Reading, Scripture study]. (Cognitive)

**IDEA Objective #10:** Develop a clearer understanding of and commitment to personal and biblical values related to finance and how we are to live.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

As a result of participating in this course, and the diligent completion of the course assignments, the student should achieve objective #10 when they:

1. Experience personal contentment through an understanding of God's character, truth about money and realistic spending behavior (Spiritual growth). [Journal, Practical Applications, Readings] (Affective)
2. Challenge and transform assumptions about money and possessions from family upbringing, culture and experience into a more biblically and theologically informed view. [Lectures/discussions; Readings; Scripture study]
3. Become a responsible, disciplined consumer "not tossed by the winds of culture" through practicing financial faithfulness during and after the course establishing a lifestyle of a godly steward: **Giving first and more ⇒ Saving more ⇒ THEN Living.** [Readings, Journal, Practical Exercises]

## REQUIRED TEXTS

**Required Textbooks** (Each of the following books are required and will be used in this course)

1. Cunningham, Chad. E., *Money & Faith: A Practical Theology: Student Edition*, Crown Financial Ministries, Inc., Gainesville, GA © 2006.
2. Bee, Richard and Carpenter, David, *A Good and Faithful Steward*, Wisdom Cries Out Publications, Cypress, Texas 2016.
3. Coley, Don, *A Stewards Journey – Solving the Money Maze*, ASJ Resources, Colorado Springs, CO 2005
4. O'Donnell, James, *The Shortest Investment Book Ever*, Northfield Publishers, Chicago, IL 2008.

**Optional Textbooks** (Each of the following books are optional and may be used as supplemental resources)

1. Alcorn, Randy (2011) *Managing God's Money* Tyndale House Publishers: Wheaton, IL.
2. Issler, K. & Moreland, J.P., (2005) Today's confusion about happiness, in *The Lost Virtue of Happiness*, NavPress: Colorado Springs.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

Biola University is committed to ethical practice in teaching, scholarship, and service. As such, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please see the undergraduate/graduate student handbook and/or the departmental/program/school policy on academic honesty. It is imperative that you present all written, oral, and/or performed work with a clear indication of the source of that work. If it is completely your own, you are encouraged to present it as such, taking pleasure in ownership of your own created work. However, it is also imperative that you give full credit to any and all others whose work you have included in your presentation via paraphrase, direct quotation, and/or performance, citing the name(s) or the author(s)/creator(s) and the source of the work with appropriate bibliographic information. To do otherwise is to put oneself in jeopardy of being sanctioned for an act or acts of plagiarism that can carry serious consequences up to and including expulsion from the university.

<http://studentlife.biola.edu/campus-life/student-handbook/academic-integrity>

<http://plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/overview/>

## ONLINE AND OTHER COURSE RESOURCES

Throughout the academic term, any number of hard-copy documents or various other resources (electronic or otherwise) may be made available to students registered for this course. Those resources may be presented in class or could alternately be posted on the university website or in the electronic reserves area of the library's catalog for viewing and download. It is the student's responsibility to make himself or herself aware of such materials, and to electronically save, physically *print*, archive, read, reference, and bring such items to class as necessary or required.

## LEARNING TASKS (Assignments) & ASSESSMENT (Grading)

**Description and Weighting of Assignments: The following tasks are not necessarily in sequential dated order.**

- A. Personal Reading (per schedule and assigned), weekly quiz on reading (15%), and a three page reading report on Bee's, Coley's, or O'Donnell's texts that examines what you agree or disagree with from their writing (5%)      20%
1. Cunningham, Chad, E., (2005). *Faith & Money: A practical theology*, Crown Financial Ministries, Gainesville, GA.
  2. Bee, Richard and Carpenter, David (2014). *A Good and Faithful Steward – Managing God's Riches in Your Life*, Wisdom Cries Out Publications, Cypress, TX.
  3. Coley, Don, *A Stewards Journey – Solving the Money Maze*, ASJ Resources, Colorado Springs, CO 2005
  4. O'Donnell, James, *The Shortest Investment Book Ever*, Northfield Publishers, Chicago, IL 2008.
  5. Handouts—various reading handouts given in class as assigned by professor.
- B. Personal Practical Applications      p/f
1. Deed (of all personal assets)
  2. Track spending—through the duration of the course.
  3. Financial statement & Debt list\*
  4. Spending plan developed

\*Students with over \$5,000 in accumulated debt should set an appointment with the instructor at some time during the semester to discuss their strategy for debt reduction!

- C. Personal Discipline Assignments
1. *Personal Journal*      20%  
(Neatly hand-written in a "bluebook" or printed out from your computer in a readable font and stapled together). The personal journal will consist of three sections: 1) **Introduction:** your introductory understanding of money and faith issues at the beginning of the course (one page). 2) **Body:** weekly (3 entries per week minimum) journal entries based on "takeaway's" you have learned from the reading in the textbooks and class conversations. 3) **Conclusion:** your final comments, insights, philosophical changes and understanding at the end of the course (one or two pages). Each of the three weekly entries should be approximately one or two paragraphs in length. No one else will have access to your journal. \*The journal will be handed in twice for assessment: at mid-term and prior to finals week.
  2. *Media Analysis Assignment*      10%  
Students will submit a three page [3] minimum; typed, double spaced; one [1] inch margins 12 point font paper that critically analyzes the various *claims* and content of an appropriate (instructor approved) media (movie, TV series program) noting what *messages* they are sending to you, *using scripture to highlight issues of discontinuity or continuity to a biblical understanding of wealth, success, happiness, or values,*

*integrating what the student has learned* from the course related to the media using scripture as your critique and guide.

Student must inform the professor by the third class in writing what specific media program they will be evaluating before starting the assignment. If the student does not receive written approval for their media program no credit will be given for the assignment.

Examples: watch 4 episodes of a TV Series or at least 4 hours evaluating TV advertisements. Or you may choose to watch a movie related to money: i.e., Citizen Kane, etc.

3. *Stewardship project* 15%  
Taken from information on your personal journal, course reading, and lectures, synthesize the course material and creatively apply what you have learned. This project will include a short oral presentation (10%) and a written report (5%) on what you did (1-2 pages) Projects will be discussed in class during the semester.
4. *Wedding analysis/ Parental Interaction (conversations to be assigned)* 15%  
Each student will research the entire cost of a wedding: ceremony, dinners, cloths & jewelry, honeymoon, etc. Determine the average cost of a wedding and calculate the costs, to include loan amount, interest rate, term (how long), monthly payment, and total paid by the end of the term. Note: even if you are paying cash for your wedding, for this assignment you will calculate the loan costs (10%)  
  
Additionally, students will be give assignment topics to correspond with their parents about throughout the semester (generally two topics). Students will in person or by phone (no e-mail) interact with their parent(s) on the topic assigned. Students will summarize their conversations in a word document noting their parent’s responses, interaction, and what they learned. (5%)
5. Mid-term and Final 20%  
Summarizing the principles learned on stewardship, faith and money.

D. Participation and personal attendance

Attendance is a matter of respect for my time and your classmates. I expect you to come prepared for all class sessions.

## CLASS INFORMATION

### 1. Class Attendance:

I expect your presence in class out of respect of my time and the time of your classmates. Only under extreme circumstances are excuses allowed (ex. personal immediate family tragedy, accident (ex. Car wreck, broken leg, etc.) or sickness (not a “check up”) but the illness. If a school event necessitates your missing class, an absence must be accompanied by a letter from the advising professor/coach.

*Class attendance will be evaluated through weekly quizzes and students must be in attendance to take the quizzes and receive credit. Multiple absences will affect total quiz scores and ultimately the student's final grade.*

### **1. Assignments:**

This course is an advanced Biblical elective that you have chosen to take and you will be expected to manage your entire course load accordingly. Assignments are to be completed on the date identified in the syllabus (and on Canvas) and submitted during the class period when due. Late work will receive a penalty of 20%. Reports, papers and assignments should be typed, however journal entries may be hand written, but should be legible.

### **3. Turning in Assignments:**

Assignments should be turned in when due in class or on Canvas by the due date. If an assignment is emailed to the professor, the student should ensure that they have identified the assignment with their name, class meeting date, and assignment title. If a student is going to be out of town or is sick preceding class, he or she should alert the professor prior to the class period whenever possible.

### **4. General Requirements for Written and Oral Projects:**

Biola University desires to maintain the highest standards with respect to the composition of all assigned work. As such, any student paper exhibiting poor grammar, spelling errors, typographical errors, or other substandard academic expression shall have the overall grade for that paper reduced accordingly. Generally, a paper will be deemed substandard and ineligible to receive an "A" grade when it averages three or more compositional errors per page. Moreover, at the discretion of the professor, the substandard paper may be returned to the student for correction and resubmission with appropriate grade penalties. Students deficient in writing skills may seek assistance at the Biola Writing Center.

### **5. Respect for Divergent Viewpoints**

In Christian higher educational institutions, it can be assumed that each believer-learner is at a different place of personal maturity and educational preparedness. For these reasons, it is requested and expected that each student exhibit mutual respect, even when divergent viewpoints are expressed in the classroom. Such respect, even when it results in a student's frustrated silence, does not require or imply agreement with or acceptance of any such perspectives.

### **6. Technology Use and Classroom Etiquette**

Students should refrain from behaviors that negatively affect the teaching environment or its facilities. This includes any potentially distracting action that could inhibit the primary purposes of the classroom— namely, learning and personal transformation. Students should conduct themselves as professionals who give, and are worthy of, a high level of respect.

**The use of items like laptops, pagers, cell/mobile phones, mp3 players, and all other electronic or digital devices are matters that are strictly governed in academic environments such as this.** Please turn off your cellular phones, ipods, and other gadgets (including text messaging options) during

class time out of respect to the professor and your classmates (for every time I leave my phone on and it rings, each student receives 1 (one) point toward their overall final grade. (And no, you cannot call my number during class).

**8. Computation of Final Grade:**

Media Analysis Assignment	10%	
Practical Applications (4)	p/f	
Personal Journal	20%	
Wedding/Parental Conversation	15%	
Reading Quizzes and Paper on reading	20%	
Stewardship project	15%	
Mid-Term and Final	20%	
<b>Total points:</b>		<b>100 points / 100%</b>

**9. Final grades will be awarded on the following point system:**

<b>A</b>	<b>100-92%</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>79-78%</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>61-60%</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>91-90%</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>77-72%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>59-%</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>89-88%</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>71-70%</b>		
<b>B</b>	<b>87-82%</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>69-68%</b>		
<b>B-</b>	<b>81-80%</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>67-62%</b>		

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**1. The GPA System adopted by this professor is:**

<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>B-</b>	2.67	<b>D+</b>	1.33
<b>A-</b>	3.67	<b>C+</b>	2.33	<b>D</b>	1.0
<b>B+</b>	3.33	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>D-</b>	.67
<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>C-</b>	1.67	<b>F</b>	0.0

**2. Method of Instruction:**

The following methods of instruction will be included in this course:

- |                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Lecture          | 5. Electronic Presentations |
| 2. Group Discussion | 6. Reading                  |
| 3. Written Reports  | 7. Guest Presenters         |
| 4. Oral Reports     |                             |



### 3. Key Passages and Related Bibliography:

#### Key Passage List

1.	Luke 12:15 (Luke 16:11)	Introduction
2.	1 John 2:15	Materialism & Spirituality
3.	1 Chronicles 29:11-12	God's Part
4.	1 Corinthians 4:2	Our Part
5.	Leviticus 19:11	Honesty
6.	Colossians 3:23-24	Work
7.	Romans 13:8	Debt
8.	Proverbs 12:15	Counsel
9.	Acts 20:35	Giving
10.	Proverbs 21: 5, 20	Investing
11.	Philippians 4:11-12	Your Future

#### Related Bibliography

Alcorn, Randy (2011) *Managing God's Money* Tyndale House Publishers: Wheaton, IL.

Bee, Richard & Carpenter, David (2016) *A good and Faithful Steward, Managing God's Riches in Your Life*, Wisdom Cries Out Publications, Cypress, TX.

Issler, K. & Moreland, J.P., (2005) Today's confusion about happiness, in *The Lost Virtue of Happiness*, NavPress: Colorado Springs.

Miller, Elliot (2005) *Tithing: Is it New Testament*, Christian Research Institute

Myers, David, (1998) *Money & Misery*, in *The Consuming Passion: Christianity and the consumer culture*, ed Rodney Clapp, InterVarsity Press: Downers Grove.

Packer, J.I., (1993) *Lifestyle, leisure, and pleasure*, in *God & Culture: Essays in honor of Carl F. H. Henry*, ed. D. A. Carson and John Woodbridge. Eerdmans Publishing.

Resseguie, James (2004) *Consumption: The Spiritual Life and Possessions*, in *Spiritual Landscape: Images of the Spiritual Life in the Gospel of Luke*. Hendrickson Publishers: Peabody, MA.

Rodin, Scott (2000) *Introduction & Docking the Ship*, in *Stewards in the Kingdom: A Theology of Life in All its Fullness*

Stackhouse, John G., (2000) *Money & Theology in American Evangelicalism*, in *More Money, More Ministry: Money and Evangelicals in recent North American history*. ed, Eskridge & Knoll, Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Wuthnow, Robert. (1994) *Faith & Work*, in *God & Mammon in America*, The Free Press: New York.

#### 4. Posting of Final Grades:

The professor does not post, calculate, nor provide final grades to individual students. Final grades are delivered by the Registrar's Office, whose responsibility it is to perform that task. Throughout

the semester students may check Canvas for grade updates or request an update on grade status by email.

## 5. Report Delay:

In virtually every case that students do not meet the course requirements and when required course tasks are not submitted to the professor, such students should anticipate receiving a failing grade. In rare and unusual situations (e.g., serious illness of the student or illness or death of a student's immediate family), the student may formally request a report delay (RD) through the Vice Provost's Office. Details can be found in the student handbook.

<http://studentlife.biola.edu/campus-life/student-handbook/absences>

## 6. Anticipated course schedule (subject to change by the professor)

Date	Class Topics	Assignment Due
<b>Part I. Foundations—Thinking Biblically &amp; Theologically</b>		
8/29	Session 1 Overview of Syllabus Session 2	Track Spending Starts Faithful Steward Introduction Issler/Moreland Money, Meaning & Significance article—next time
9/5	Session 1 Chapter #1 Conceptualizing Session 2 Conceptualizing—Continued	<i>F&amp;M Text: 1, Faithful Steward Week 2</i> Reading Quiz 1
9/12	Session 1 Chapter #2 Impact of Money Starting Off Right Session 2 Chapter #3 Impact Continued	<i>F&amp;M Text: 2 &amp; 3, Faithful Steward Week 3</i> <i>Coley: pp. 37-43</i> Reading Quiz 2 <b>Media Analysis Topic due</b>
9/19	Session 1 Chapter #4 Wealth reloaded Topic: "Christian view of wealth" Session 2 Guest Speaker- Balancing Wealth	<i>F&amp;M Text: 4</i> <i>Faithful Steward Week 4</i> Reading Quiz 3
9/26	Session 1 Chapter #5 Materialism and Spirituality Session 2 Playing the Game of Life	<i>F&amp;M Text: 5, Faithful Steward Week 5</i> <i>Coley: pp. 45-91</i> Reading Quiz 4 <b>Deed</b>
10/3	Session 1 Chapter #6 Needs, Wants and Contentment Session 2 Guest Speaker- Our Stuff	<i>F&amp;M Text: 6, Faithful Steward Week 6</i> Reading Quiz 5 <b>Financial Statement</b>

<b>Part II.            A Fresh View of the Godly Steward</b>
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10/10	Session 1 Chapter # 7 Refresh: Peering into Eternity Session 2 Gaining an Eternal Perspective	<i>F&amp;M Text 7, Faithful Steward Week 7</i> <i>Coley pp: 93-120</i> Reading Quiz 6 <b>Personal Journal Review</b>
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10/17	Session 1 Chapter #8 Release: Let God be God Session 2 Chapter #9 Fidelity: A Fresh Glance Topic: "Faithfulness in our oversight"	<i>F&amp;M Text: 8 &amp; 9</i> <i>Faithful Steward Week 8</i> Reading Quiz 7
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10/24	Session 1 Midterm Session Session 2 Guest Speaker – God and Your Stuff	<b>Midterm</b> <b>Track Your Spending (2 mos.)</b>
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<b>Part III.            Balance: The Way of the Godly Steward</b>
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10/31	Session 1 Chapter #10 Honesty: God’s Mandate Session 2 Topic: "A Stewards ethic of honesty"	<i>F&amp;M Text: 10, Faithful Steward Week 9</i> <b>Debt List</b> Reading Quiz 8
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11/7	Session 1 Chapter #11—Thrive: The Blessing of Work Session 2 Topic: "A renewed theology of work"	<i>F&amp;M Text: 11, Faithful Steward Week 10</i> <i>Coley pp. 123-224</i> Reading Quiz 9 <b>Wedding Analysis Project Due</b>
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11/14	Session 1 Chapter #12 Plugging In: The Importance of Counsel Session 2 Topic: "Foolish or wise"	<i>F&amp;M Text: 12, Faithful Steward Week 11</i> <i>O’Donnell pp. 1-50</i> Reading Quiz 10 <b>Media Analysis Due</b>
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11/21	Session 1 Chapter #13, Credit: Danger! On Planning for the future Session 2 Chapter #14, "Theology of Giving"	<i>F&amp;M Text 13, 14 Faithful Steward Week 12</i> <i>O’Donnell pp.51-end</i> Reading Quiz 11 <b>Final Journals Due</b> <b>Spending Plan (Budget)</b>
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- 11/28 **At Professors Home**  
Chapter #15  
"Giving/Stewardship wrap up" *F&M Text 15, 16, Faithful Steward Week 13*  
**Parent Conversation 1 and 2**
- 12/5 Both Sessions - Stewardship Projects **Reading Report Bee, Coley, or O'Donnell**  
(Oral Reports) **Stewardship Project Written Summary**
- 12/12 Finals Week  
**Final**  
**Tracking Your Spending (4 mos.)**