

# YOU CAN SAVE MONEY, BUT MONEY CAN'T SAVE YOU!

By Keith Greer

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." {1 Timothy 6:10}

Someone has said that money is a necessary evil. Maybe so. We need money to help us support our families, buy houses, food, clothing, and a host of other things we require to live comfortably. But, the key to the money dilemma is knowing how to use it wisely, while not allowing it to control us. It isn't wrong to plan for the future; in fact, such planning demonstrates good stewardship. Below are a couple of helpful tips.

**Understand the difference between needs and wants.** "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" {Matthew 6:25,26} God is aware of our needs. We are to have faith and trust in Him to provide us with ability and opportunities to secure the things we need for our families. God will take care of us.

**Putting God first.** "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." {Matthew 6:33} Every one of us has established priorities in our lives. What is it that has first place in your life? When we talk about God having first place, we are discussing a mindset. Each person needs to acknowledge that all of his choices in life should reflect the importance of his relationship with God.

Sadly, many of us forget about the source of our blessings. {James 1:17} Money is a necessity, but don't succumb to the temptation to allow it to rule over you. How can it rule over me? By compromising our commitment to God, in order to secure a better situation here or down the road in my later years, at the expense of one's duty to God. Look back through history and observe when it was most difficult for God's people to follow Him—during times of prosperity. THINK! \*\*\*