

Money: A Root of Evil, Rich for Good

Summer 2009 – Boston Chinese Evangelical Church

What is “Trellis”:

A *trellis* is a structure a vine grows on. For BCEC College Ministry, in keeping with the word picture in John 15 of the vine and branches, the Trellis is the written word of God. Trellis isn't a traditional Sunday School class. It's the primary large group gathering of college-aged folks for our College Ministry. We hope you don't just come to a class, but participate in a community. Many of our college students gather in small groups on different week nights. They discuss life and the Bible, share life, and hang out. Please see our welcome area for more information on those small group we call TWIGS.

Course Description:

In this course we will look at a biblical theology of money: what is it, why we have money, and how to view it. But we will also consider practical skills in handling money such as tracking your spending, budgeting, and dealing with debt. The assignments also will focus on biblical and practical instruction. So, what's in your wallet?

Meeting Time and Place:

We will meet in Josiah Quincy Upper School cafeteria from 11:15-12:30PM every Sunday except for the off days noted on the Course Schedule.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of the semester, the student will be able to...

1. Understand the biblical teaching on money, debt, and how money relates to evil.
2. Recorded how you spent your money over a period of time.
3. Set a budget for yourself.
4. Develop a system for tracking your money.
5. Understand a biblical use of debt and credit cards.

Textbooks:

Required Texts:

The Bible, preferably the New International Version, New American Standard Version. Or English Standard Version

Suggested Texts:

The New Master Your Money by Ron Blue.

Neither Riches Nor Poverty by Craig Blomberg.

Course Assignments & Requirements:

There are will very likely be reading assignments in this class... at least once! Please read those materials that I give to you. Otherwise, it would be helpful to review the material during the week.

Grading Scale:

75% attendance & participation

25% external projects & reflection

Instructor Information:

Enoch Liao, Assistant Pastor

Boston Chinese Evangelical Church

Office Hours: by appointment.

Work Phone: (617) 426-5711 x66.

Email: enoch.liao@bcec.net

Virtual Office (for course materials): <http://blog.karenoch.com/trellis/>

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Notes
1	Jun 28	Introduction to Course	
2	Jul 5	How much are you worth?	Begin tracking spending
3	Jul 12	Is Money the Root of All Evil?	
4	Jul 19	Neither Riches Nor Poverty	
5	Jul 26	The Power of Debt	Assess your debt
6	Aug 2	Accounting for Money	Take stock of your spending
7	Aug 9	Making a Plan	Budgeting
8	Aug 16	A Keen Interest	Compound interest & credit cards
9	Aug 23	Thrifty People	Meet some of my “cheap” friends
10	Aug 30	Generosity and Giving	How to use money
11	Sep 6	TBA	
12			

Opening Questions:

1. How many of you have debt? What kind?
2. How accurately could you answer the question: how much money do you have right now (not necessarily on your person)?
3. Do you do any budgeting or reconciling your check books? What system(s) have you used before?
4. How many credit cards do you currently have? How many debit cards?