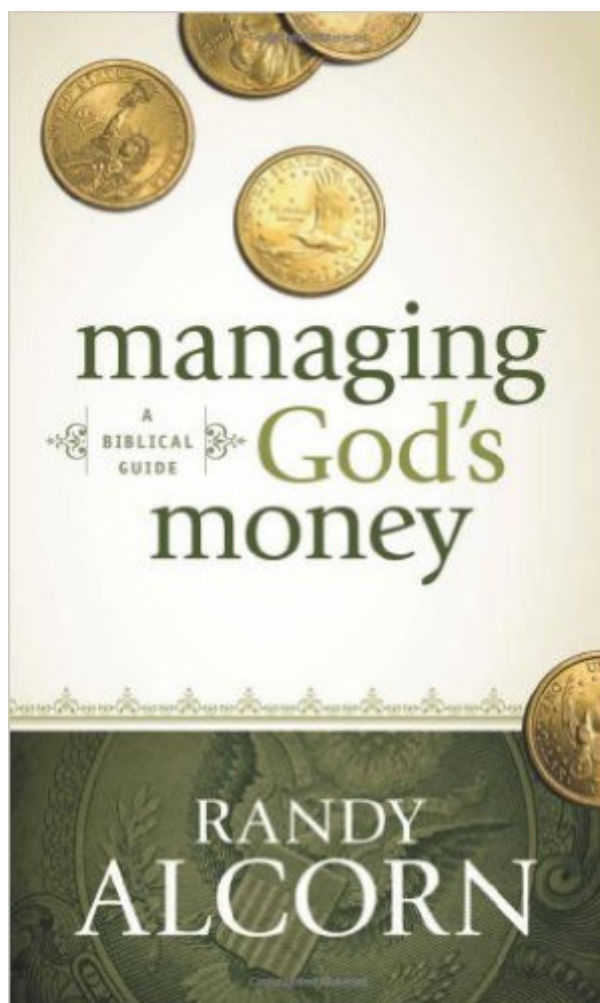


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# Managing God's Money: A Biblical Guide



## Synopsis

God cares a great deal more about our money than most of us imagine. The sheer enormity of Scripture's teaching on this subject screams for our attention. In fact, Jesus says more about how we are to view and handle money and possessions than about any other topic—including both heaven and hell. In *Managing God's Money*, Randy Alcorn breaks down exactly what the Bible has to say about how we are to handle our money and possessions in a simple, easy-to-follow format. Filled with Scripture references, *Managing God's Money* is the perfect reference tool for anyone who is interested in gaining a solid biblical understanding of money, possessions, and eternity.

## Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. (March 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1414345534

ISBN-13: 978-1414345536

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.7 x 6.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (84 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #36,948 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Stewardship #8321 in Books > Religion & Spirituality

## Customer Reviews

I began reading *Managing God's Money* by Randy Alcorn before we left on our big vacation, and I finished it within the first few hours of being on the road. In some ways, this was a very easy book to read. It's not too long, the chapters are organized well, the concepts are easy to grasp. In some ways, it was a difficult book to read--especially when I felt challenged to look at how I handle money. I could be reading along and say, "Oh good, I already do that." Easy part. Then turn the page and feel, "Oh, I don't do that. I don't like that at all. He's saying I should change." Hard part. Temptation to put the book down and stop reading. I found during these times it was good to keep pressing on. And also to acknowledge my shortcomings and pray for a change of heart. I have read many books by Christian authors on handling money. I felt prompted to read this book, but I asked, "Why?" We've read Larry Burkett, we did the Dave Ramsey course, and even a small-group study by Crown Financial Ministries, why did I feel like I should read another book? I pulled up the book on .com and looked at the table of contents (using the "Look Inside" feature). That right there motivated me to

pick up the book. Think of this as a "prequel" to Dave Ramsey, Larry Burkett, and the others. It deals with a heart focus more comprehensively. The book answers questions that I have wrestled with even after going through other courses. The table of contents really is helpful in knowing what the book contains. The book is divided into 6 sections. Under each chapter title lists a set of questions that the particular chapter tackles. Such as Chapter 1: Are we faithful in how we handle money?

If the polls are correct, many Christians spend more on their pets than they give to missionaries (our pets are better cared for than our missionaries). If the polls are correct, most Christians only tithe about 2% of their income. Even if those polls are a bit off, I think it is safe to say all of us need to hold a little (or a lot!) less tightly to our cash and coin. So when Tyndale made Alcorn's "Managing God's Money" available for review, I quickly requested it. I've not read anything by Alcorn before this one; I was happy to see he did his best to summarize the Bible's teaching on how Christians should handle the money God has given them to utilize as pilgrims and stewards. The book consists of six sections: 1) Money and possessions in the Bible, 2), Perspectives that hinder biblical money management, 3) Stewardship in light of eternity, 4) Giving and sharing, 5) Wisdom and money, and 6) Training our children (and churches) about biblical money management. One part I appreciated was Alcorn's discussion of materialism. He writes about the materialistic aspect of Western culture, how it affects all of us, and how we can fight it. Alcorn also rightly criticizes the prosperity gospel: "Prosperity theology is like chocolate-covered rat poison." He mentions the suffering Christians are often called to and also explains that God often gives his people wealth so they can give it to others who need it. Alcorn gives a great quote by Augustine: "Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others." One part of this book I wasn't completely convinced by was Alcorn's discussion of rewards in chapter 11.

I have a love-hate relationship with money. I think most people do. On the one hand money is a necessity--a resource we depend upon, a resource we need if we are to live and thrive in this world. On the other hand money is spiritually captivating, a resource that offers a particularly insightful look into our hearts. Money is the topic of Randy Alcorn's new book *Managing God's Money*. This is a biblical guide to managing our money with an eye to eternity. Many of you know that this is not Alcorn's first book on money. I believe it is actually his third, so let me tell you how it fits into the Alcorn canon. While I haven't read *Money, Possessions, and Eternity* or *The Treasure Principle*, my perception is that this book fits right between the two. In the book's final pages Alcorn writes, "I

wrote *Managing God's Money* to serve as a small and inexpensive resource that covers a lot of ground in addressing financial stewardship with an eternal perspective." More ground than *The Treasure Principle* but less than *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*. To that end it is printed as a mass market paperback and priced at just \$5.99 (or \$3.99 for Kindle). Let me tell you how Alcorn goes about addressing this issue. He does so in six sections: *Money and Possessions*, *Perspectives that Impede Faithful Money Management*, *Our Stewardship in Eternity's Light*, *Giving and Sharing God's Money and Possessions*, *Wisely Handling God's Money and Possessions*, and *Passing the Baton of Wise Stewardship*. As you would expect, he progresses from biblical teaching on the foundations of money to the way we use our money to the way we teach others how to use their money. A few principles underly much of what Alcorn teaches. Ownership: all of our money belongs to God.

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