



Course Syllabus

Biblical Economics and Financial Management

Course Code: MLM-308

Instructor: Dr. Gerald Chester

Facilitator: Dr. Gerald Chester

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Course Description

Every day we make financial decisions. Financial activities are so common that we rarely even think about the philosophy, values, and principles we use to make these decisions. We buy, sell, trade, barter, save, invest, give, and pay taxes routinely with little thought about how the system should work and the key principles that should govern it. So how did God design the system to work? How should we think about economic matters? And what are the key principles we should follow? The objective of this course is to provide biblical answers to these questions.

In this training you will learn how to think about financial decisions based on the Bible. The course will present a biblical perspective on economics, such as, the distinction between temporal wealth and true wealth. In addition, you will be challenged with key principles that will enable you to make financial decisions from God's perspective. For example, you will learn God's priorities for the use of money, what God will bless, and why the wicked sometimes seem to prosper. You will be challenged to consider that a correct view of economics and financial management is an integral part of walking with God.

The training will be presented through video and audio teaching with accompanying notes and exercises. Online group calls will be conducted to reinforce your learning experience. The course is an opportunity to enrich your understanding of God and to enable you to think more biblically about economic and financial matters.

Required Curriculum Material

The downloadable curriculum material (videos, audios, and notes) is included in the cost of the course.

Course Requirements

The curriculum material consists of seven (7) videos and three (3) audio teachings with notes and exercises. Each week students are expected to view a video or listen to an audio teaching, read accompanying notes, and work exercises. In addition, students are expected to participate in periodic online group discussion sessions with the instructor. The purpose of these sessions is to help the students process and apply the training. A major theme of the training is the importance of community in living a life of faith; accordingly, the online sessions will provide practical opportunities for the students to experience the value of community.

Students should spend a minimum of 3 hours per week viewing the videos or listening to the recordings, reading the notes, working the exercises, plus participating in the online calls. Participation in the online calls is mandatory—at least 70 percent participation is required to complete the course for credit. Grades will be determined based on the midterm and final exams plus participation in the calls. Call participation will be assessed based on the instructor's view of the quality of the comprehension, engagement, and interaction of

each student. The call schedule and connection instructions will be provided to the students before the course begins.

The final grade will be determined according to the following:

Participation 25%
 Midterm 25%
 Final Exam 50%

Grading Scale

A	94–100		
B	85–93	D	70–75
C	76–84	F	0–69

Method of Instruction

Video and audio teachings, exercises, and live online calls.

10-Week Course Outline and Lesson Plan

Week	Subject/Topic	Weekly Assignment
1	Biblical Context of Economics	Watch video Read notes and work exercises Connect to the calls
2	Biblical Principles of Economics	
3	Macro Application	
4	Micro Application	
5	What God Blesses	Listen to audio Read notes and work exercises Connect to the call
	Midterm Exam	
6	What God Doesn't Bless	Listen audio Read notes and work exercises Connect to the calls
7	Purposes and Uses of Money	
8	Riches More Valuable than Money	Watch video Read notes and work exercises Connect to the calls
9	Prosperity of the Wicked	
10	Signs of the Times	
	Final Exam	

Financial Aid

Financial aid is not available.

Disabilities

The student has the responsibility of informing the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications to avoid discrimination. Christ for the Nations provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aid to meet the institution's academic requirements.

Instructor Information

Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D., is president of Strategies@Work, LLC, a privately held management consulting firm focused on helping individuals and organizations achieve excellent performance through the implementation of biblical philosophy, values, principles, and practices based on the timeless universal principles (TUP) of the Bible.

In January 2005, Gerald published the book *Beyond Babel*, which presents a model for building excellent organizations based on TUP. *Beyond Babel* supplies the foundation for the consulting, training, and coaching services provided by Strategies@Work, LLC. In addition, Gerald writes a monthly newsletter and business tips on the application of TUP in the workplace.

Gerald is a native of Dallas, Texas. He is married to his high school sweetheart. They have two grown daughters, two sons-in-law, three grandsons, and one granddaughter. He serves as an elder at Sojourn Church, a non-denominational church in the Dallas area.