

STUDY GUIDE F O R SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORKPLACE

Chapter Nine: The Added Things

Groundwork

Read Chapter Nine.

What main points stood out as you read Chapter Nine? And how does Daniel's life illustrate those points?

Jesus in Luke 12:15:

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Hebrews 13:5. *"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'"*

Your participation in the workplace inevitably involves you with money. List anything from this chapter that you'd like to discuss with others in your group.

1. _____ (p. ____)
2. _____ (p. ____)
3. _____ (p. ____)

Groupwork

I Timothy 6:10. *"...the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."*

Mark 4:19. *"...The deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful."*

Both Scripture passages to the left rely on the analogy of plant life. How does I Timothy 6:10 help you understand Mark 4:19?

What in Daniel's experience could have made the king's offer to him in Daniel 5:7 so appealing? (see pp. 93-94).



Tell of a time when circumstances in your own life may have made you particularly vulnerable to the love-of-money temptation.

Daniel's answer to the king's offer (Daniel 5:17) shows that he remained detached from the world's driving greed for more money. What was his secret?

From the book, read from the middle of p. 95 through the end of the first paragraph on p. 96.

Comment on how James 4:1-3 relates to some of the struggles over money you have seen in your current or past workplaces.

Have you ever wrestled with the question (p. 96), "Would a really spiritual person even work for wages?" If you have, describe how you resolved the issue in your own mind and heart.

From the book, see pp. 97-100.

The book identifies what four reasons Christians may legitimately desire a boost in income?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

What other biblical reasons can you identify for wanting more money?

Pages 97-98.

The section on meeting your own and your family's needs contains several quotations from Scripture. What might the Holy Spirit be saying to you personally through these passages?

Bottom of p. 98.

From whom are you receiving instruction in God's Word? What gives them the right to receive something from what you earn on the job?

Page 99.

Should you be responsible to help in the financial support of those in gospel work who serve beyond the sphere of your local church? Explain your answer.

Bottom of p. 99 to p. 100.

In our society where many have learned to "work the system," how can you be both wise and obedient in this matter of giving to the poor?

Heartwork

Psalm 139:23-24. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Paraphrase David's prayer (from the left column), making it personal by applying it to your own relationship to your income.

After offering this prayer to God, expect him to answer—and listen carefully for it.