



WSBM440 “Financial Wisdom: Biblical Principles for Today’s Challenges”

Equipping the people of God – head, heart and hands – through the Word of God, helping them know Jesus personally and carry on his mission.

Dr Richard (Rick) J. Goossen

Rick@ELONetwork.org

Feb 7, 14, 21, 28, Mar 6, 13 & 20

Wednesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Winter 2024

2 credit hours

I - Course Description

There are biblically based eternal principles which provide the building blocks of financial wisdom. This foundation will allow you to handle your present challenges and opportunities as economic dynamics change over time. You will learn about core concepts such as stewardship and contentment. We will discuss the five ways to spend money: live, give, pay taxes, pay debt and grow. The objective of the course is to help each person develop consistent money habits to produce a lifetime of fruit.

After students have completed this course, they will be able to:

- 1) Describe a biblical worldview as it relates to money and how it should be used.
- 2) Assess the relationship between money and contentment.
- 3) Develop confidence in the use of their finances.
- 4) Improve the clarity of their communication regarding finances.
- 5) Demonstrate the consistency of behavior that is pleasing to God.

NOTE: This course is focused on “the why” and not “the how.” This is not a financial planning course and we do not cover where to invest, what to invest in, life insurance, etc.! The purpose of this course is to help you develop your Christian worldview as a platform from which you can make your financial planning decisions.



II - Course Format

The format of each class will be as follows:

- Instructor Introduction / Review
- Video Presentation
- Small Group Discussion
- Class Review

III - Course Resources

We will be using the “God Owns It All” resources from the [Ron Blue Institute](#). Ron Blue is a leader in the field of integrating biblical principles into an approach to money and possessions. I will be using short videos (15-25 minutes) in each class. In addition, there is an excellent workbook available. You will receive a link to be able to download and print the course workbook at no charge. If you would prefer, there is also a hard copy of a book available (\$20).

III - Course Outline

Date	Lesson #	Topic	Learning Objectives
Feb 7 th	1	Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine your perspective regarding money and finances. • Describe the five money management principles. • Critique the differences between a worldly and biblical financial worldview
Feb 14 th	2	Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the differences between principles based on biblical wisdom and man’s wisdom. • Describe the five uses of money. • Determine your percentages for the five uses pie chart. • Assess your position on the five steps.
Feb 21 st	3	Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the relationship between wealth and contentment. • Explain the Prosperity Paradox. • Determine how much is enough.
Feb 28 th	4	Give	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the relationship between wealth and contentment. • Explain the Prosperity Paradox.



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine how much is enough.
Mar 6 th	5	Owe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classify specific debts into the proper debt category. • Defend the biblical principles of borrowing. • Integrate the four questions about borrowing into your financial decision making
Mar 13 th	6	Grow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop confidence in the use of your finances. • Improve the clarity of your communication regarding finances. • Demonstrate the consistency of behavior that is pleasing to God.
Mar 20 th	7	Budgeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop confidence in the use of your finances. • Improve the clarity of your communication regarding finances. • Demonstrate the consistency of behavior that is pleasing to God.

V - Student Projects & Grading

The value of the course will come when students engage in careful self-reflection. This course will be a “success” to the extent that participants apply the knowledge to their own lives.

Attendance (10%)

Attendance at each of the classes and, ideally, some level of participation, as possible.

Weekly Assignments (70%)

Students will complete a self-reflection after each class in which content was discussed and prior to the following class.

Each report should be 250-500 words.

Due: Upload to the class site on a weekly basis.

Final Synthesis (20%)

Students will reflect on all assignments to date and complete their Personalized Financial Wisdom Framework which blends all content together (*NOTE: this document is focused on your values, convictions and biblical principles – and not any personal financial information*).

The document should be 500 – 1,000 words.

Due: Upload to the class site within two weeks of the last day of class.



NOTE: For information on all academic policies please see WSBM Policies Manual online.

VI - Instructor Bio - Dr. Richard (Rick) J. Goossen

I have worked with wealth management firms for the past 15 years, specifically with high-net-worth family/business owners and entrepreneurs across Canada. I often work along side wealth managers and financial advisors as a “strategic counsel,” drawing on my legal training, to provide strategy, governance and transition services. A more detailed CV/background is available here: [LinkedIn Profile](#) and [ELO Website Profile](#).
(NOTE: I am not a financial planner or wealth manager.)

One of the firms I worked with previously had a specific focus on dealing with Christians and integrating Christian principles into their planning. We used Ron Blue materials. I have also travelled to Orlando, FL a number of times to attend Ron Blue’s “Kingdom Business Advisors Conference.” I have met Ron Blue and have heard speak in person many times.

With respect to church involvement, I have been a member at Willingdon since 1993 and over the years have taught Sunday School, been involved with WSBM, the Welcome Centre, ushering & co-leading home groups. I have previously served on the boards of Columbia Bible College, the Mennonite Housing Society and the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.