

## Making Sense of our Finances

Our attitude to money will influence the way we live and relate to others

The bible has much to say about money and riches.

### The Old Testament

- It was believed that material prosperity was a sign of God's blessing Deut 28:1 -6, 8, 12
- Abraham, Joseph and David were all prosperous – when Israel obeyed God they prospered

### With prosperity came responsibility:

- The wealthy were to care for the poor Deut 15:7,8
- They were NOT to forget God Deut 8:11 – 14
- The way they became prosperous mattered – dishonest gain was condemned
- God expected those who had prospered to use it for His purposes eg David

- God commanded the people to tithe b/c:
  - It ensured the people remembered God
  - By dedicating the first 10% it was symbolic of dedicating the whole
  - Tithing supported the ministry of those in fulltime service

Even in the OT despite their prosperity, the people struggled to be generous to God

### The New Testament

- Jesus often spoke of the dangers of riches and their impact upon the heart.
- Matt 6:24 You cannot serve God and money
- The rich young ruler Matt 19:21 – 22
- Prov 30:8,9