

Learning to Handle Money Well

Possible Despite Value Changes

AS graduation time approaches, the seniors must be frustrated about money. Many people are. It makes no sense for fathers to talk about the times, not so long ago, when they worked for "only \$10 a day," or grandfathers to recall when they were glad to get just a dollar or two during the Great Depression.

Today's youth has no basis in observation or experience for comprehending that kind of economics. At 16, they may command \$2 an hour and they know people who get more without working at all.

We have no standard by which to measure values of things today with values of similar assets of other days. Inflation has depreciated some, exaggerated the worth of others, and distorted the relationships of all. Lack of a standard measure adds to confusion.

Yet, out of the observations of moneyed men and philosophers we may distill principles about money that stand in spite of inflation and changing values.

1. Every young person needs to learn to earn money honestly. This can be done by selecting a career or occupation and concentrating on it until he or she can do the job as well as anyone else. Preferably, better. It

should pay well and give personal satisfaction.

The best money that anybody ever receives is that which has been earned by his own labor, his own skill and his own achievements.

2. A person must learn how to spend money. Many may suppose that they have natural talent in this respect, but it is not necessarily so. Merely allowing money to trickle through one's fingers or bank account is no proof that it is money well-spent.

Some people seem to be managed by their money, rather than able to manage their incomes to provide for their necessities and most-preferred luxuries. If income is insufficient for these purposes, return to Step 1 and start over.

3. Save part of your income. Ten per cent probably is the most common recommendation as to how much. With taxes and high prices, that may be impossible for some, but it is better to save one per cent than to save nothing. Saving is easier when Step 2 has been mastered.

4. Money should be put to work when saved. Money lying idle in a bank account or a can buried under the yard produces nothing. Many institutions pay interest for use of cash and there are a million ways to invest money for profit and security. Not all of them are good ways, as they often consume the capital or yield very small returns. What may be a good investment for one person might not be desirable for another. Each must plan and utilize his own system for making his savings work and earn for him.

5. No one may be called a successful manager of his money until he learns how to give money wisely, generously, and well. Simply donating money is not successful giving, even though it may be needed by the recipients. Many a rich man has observed that it was more difficult to give away money to good advantage than it was to earn it. Many greedy people are anxious to get something for nothing. It takes skill to determine the better purposes for giving money.

Our coins bear the imprint, "In God We Trust." Many people hold on to them because they have more faith in money than in God. Yet Jesus told the Pharisee to "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's." That is still good advice.

Even if a person succeeds in handling his money successfully on all counts, the truth remains that "there are no pockets in shrouds."