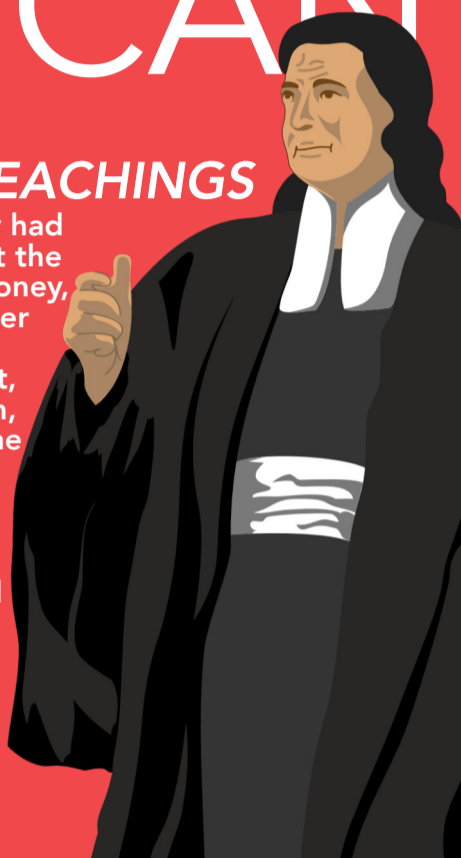


EARN. ALL SAVE. YOU GIVE. CAN

DEVELOPING THESE TEACHINGS

During his time at Oxford, John Wesley had an experience that led him to think that the Lord was not pleased with his use of money, and so he asked himself; "Will thy Master say, 'well done, good and faithful steward?'" Transformed by this incident, Wesley began to teach; Earn all you can, Save all you can, Give all you can. At one point in his life, his yearly income increased to 1,400 pounds, yet he maintained his living expenses to a mere 28 pounds and gave the rest away. Wesley felt that Christians should not simply tithe, rather give all extra income away once expenses were taken care of. His belief was with increased income, the Christian's standard of Giving should increase, not the standard of living.



EARN ALL YOU CAN

Despite its potential for misuse, money in itself is something good. There is no end to the good it can do. Wesley adds that in gaining all they can, Christians must be careful not to damage their own souls, minds, or bodies, or the souls, minds, or bodies of anyone else.

SAVE ALL YOU CAN

Wesley urged his hearers not to spend money merely to gratify the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eye or the pride of life. He cried out against expensive food, fancy clothes, and elegant furniture: "Cut off all this expense! Despise delicacy and variety and be content with what plain nature requires." Wesley had two reasons for telling Christians to buy only necessities: 1) so they would not waste money, and 2) so they would not increase their desires.

GIVE ALL YOU CAN

One's giving should begin with the tithe (first 10%), but one's giving should not end at the tithe. All of the Christian's money belongs to God, not just the first tenth. Believers must use 100 percent of their incomes as God directs.



Chippewa

United Methodist Church