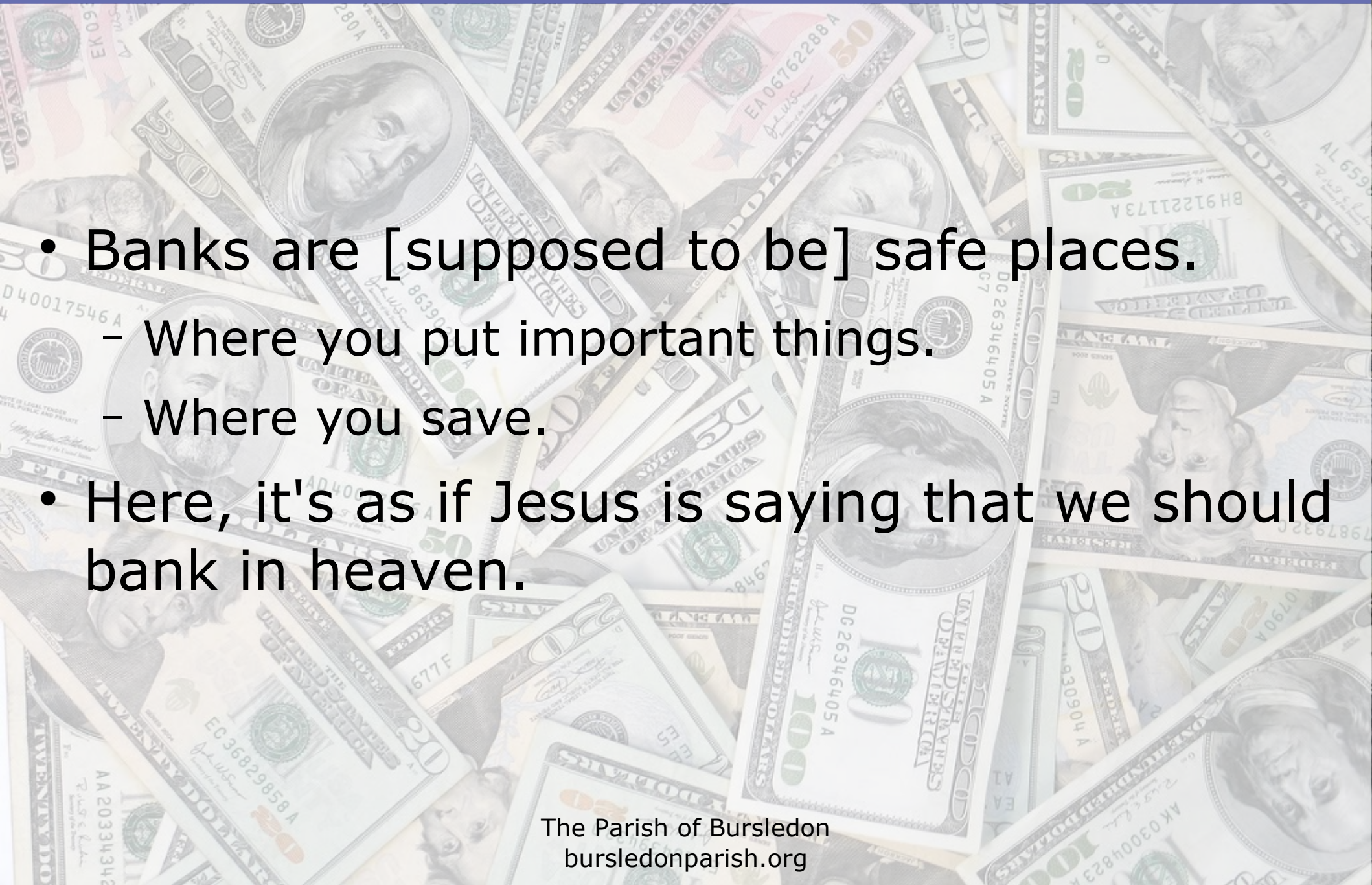


Matthew 6.19-24

“Where are we banking?”



Where are we banking?

- 
- Banks are [supposed to be] safe places.
 - Where you put important things.
 - Where you save.
 - Here, it's as if Jesus is saying that we should bank in heaven.



Banking in Heaven

- Storing up spiritual treasure in heaven?
 - Rather than physical earthly treasure.
- “Saving up” for the next life?

Well, not quite!



Banking in Heaven

- It is about things that will last.
 - But about establishing things now that will last.
- Jesus doesn't want us to hear 'the next life' when he says 'heaven'.
- Heaven is where God is right now.
- We can build up heavenly treasure in our lives here and now.



Making Deposits

- Chapter six shows three ways to do this:
 - (1) Make sure you do everything for God alone.
 - (2) Make sure your eyes are focused on good things.
 - (3) Make sure you serve the right Master.



Making Deposits

- Doing everything for God.
 - Giving.
 - Praying.
 - Fasting.
- Not trying to be seen as 'holy'.



Making Deposits

- Keeping our eyes focused on good things.
 - Fixing our [metaphorical] eyes on God.
 - Being careful where our physical eyes stray.

Aside: Healthy and Unhealthy Or: Generous and Stingy?

“Healthy” ἀπλοῦς - RSV: “sound”, Tom Wright: “honest and clear”.

“Unhealthy” πονηρός - RSV: “not sound” Tom Wright: “evil”.

ἀπλοῦς can mean generous but πονηρός cannot mean stingy.

Sadly (for some), v.v. 22-23 are probably not about money.

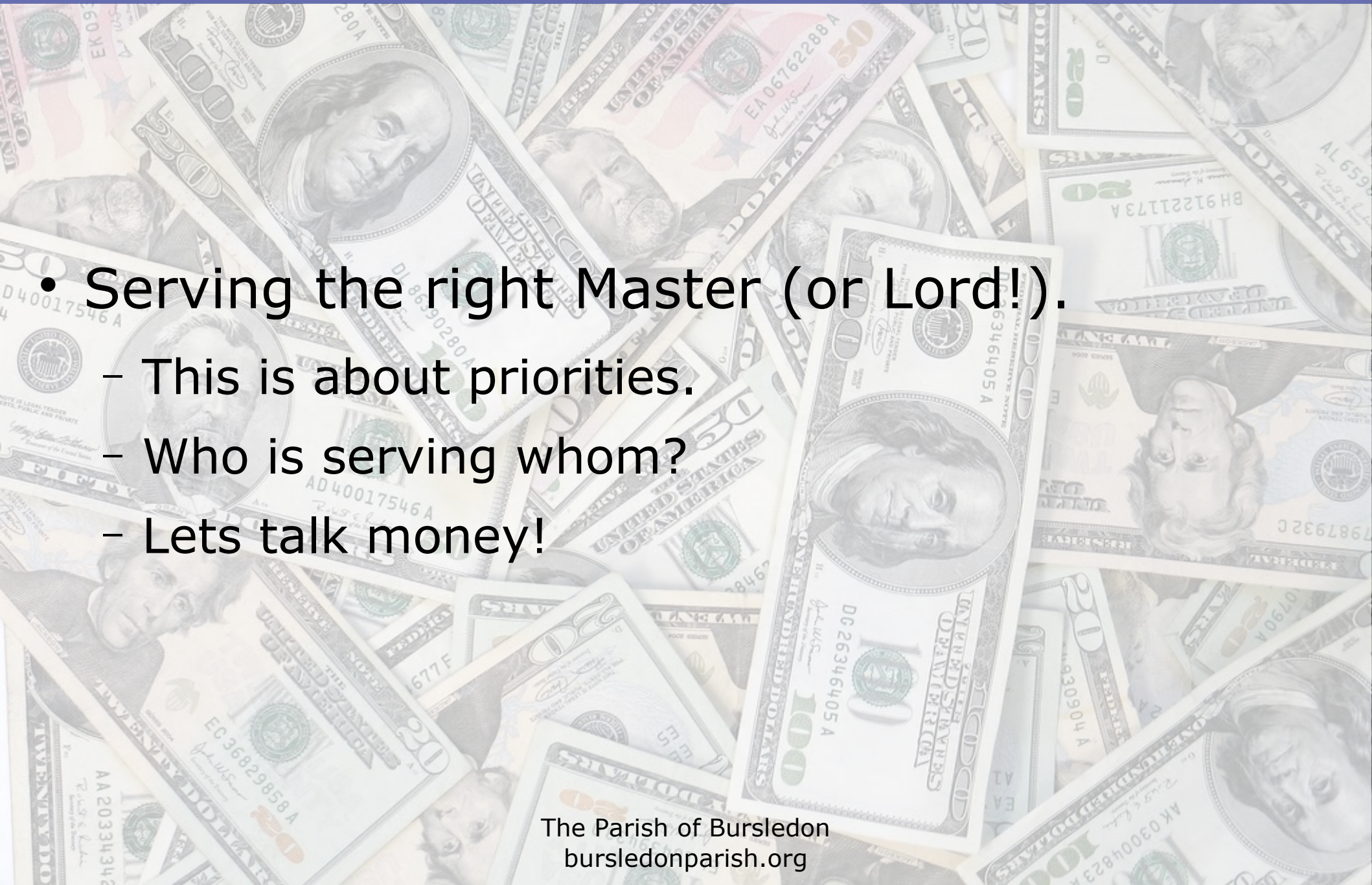


Making Deposits

- Keeping our eyes focused on good things.
 - Fixing our [metaphorical] eyes on God.
 - Being careful where our physical eyes stray.
 - Focusing on God allows light to flood in.
 - Focusing on other things keeps us in darkness.



Making Deposits

- 
- **Serving the right Master (or Lord!).**
 - This is about priorities.
 - Who is serving whom?
 - Lets talk money!

Making Deposits

God → Us → Money

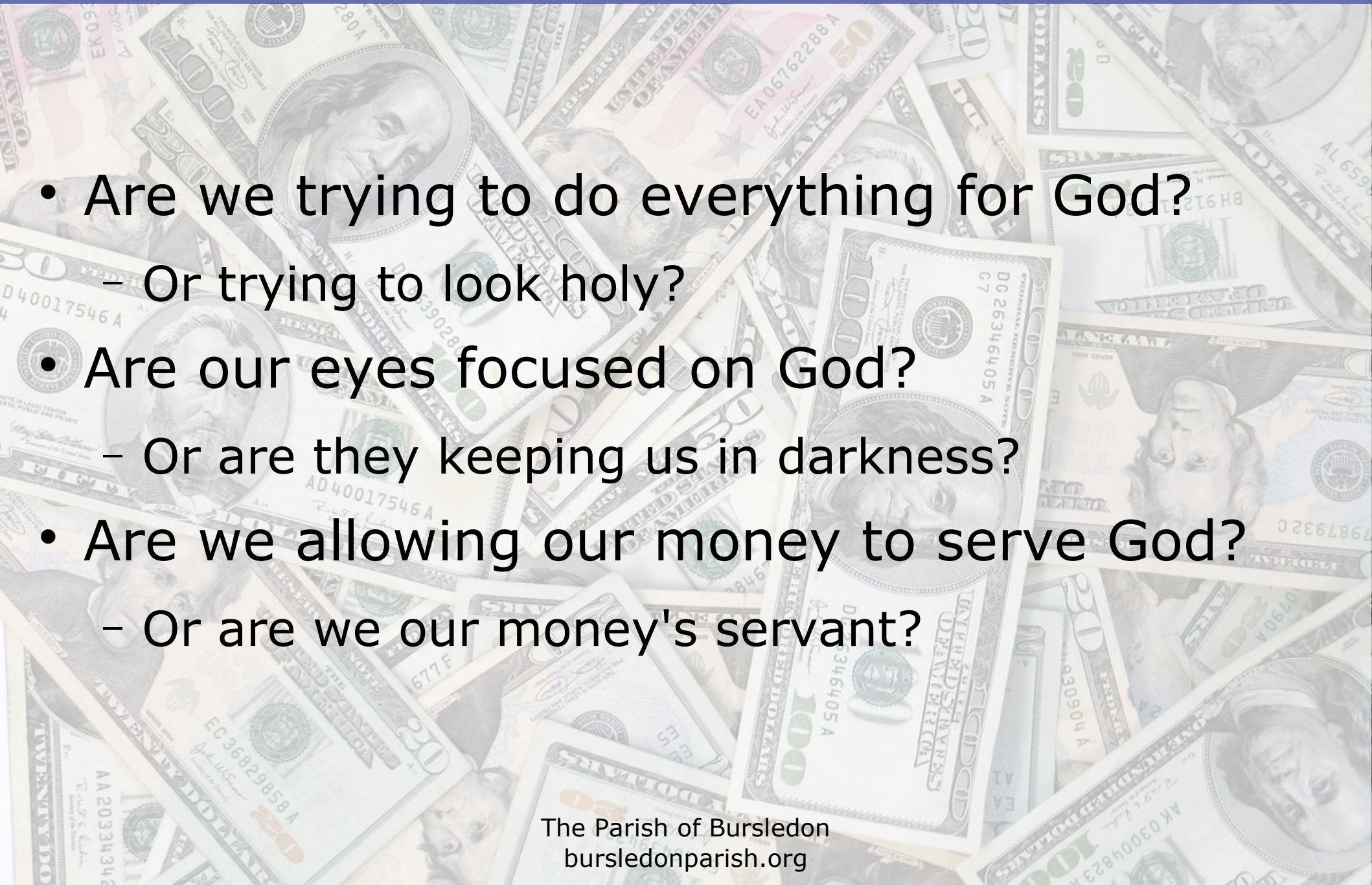
- Talking money:

- Money itself is neutral.
- But we can treat it like a God.
- There is a right order of authority.
- We should beware of reversing it!
- Our money can be used to serve God and extend the Kingdom.

Money → Us → God



So, where *are* we banking?

- 
- Are we trying to do everything for God?
 - Or trying to look holy?
 - Are our eyes focused on God?
 - Or are they keeping us in darkness?
 - Are we allowing our money to serve God?
 - Or are we our money's servant?