

The “Money and Wealth” Checklist

*I am indeed rich,
since my income is superior to my expense,
and my expense is equal to my wishes.*
Edward Gibbon, 1776



Wealth, trade, and jobs

- ___ Invest in yourself by building your specific skills and knowledge.
- ___ Be and do more; the more you can be and do, the more you have to trade, and to give.
- ___ Understand that you may have to sacrifice and pay your dues.
- ___ Let go of the lottery mentality (life is luck); cultivate the action mentality (life is created).

Government, taxes, and inflation

- ___ Be wary of supporting government debt.
- ___ Discover the difference between constructive and destructive taxes.
- ___ Understand how the government creates and benefits from inflation, a hidden tax.
- ___ Beware of supporting political programs that increase debt and dependency.
- ___ Support political programs that build in real accountability.
- ___ Don't respond radically when you understand how governments operate; know them, and plan your finances accordingly.

Money, currency, and banking

- ___ Educate yourself on the differences between wealth and money.
- ___ Own real money: gold and silver coins.
- ___ When dealing with precious metals, deal with reputable businesses (for example, beware of eBay, or people who make extravagant claims); but be watchful, even of reputable brokers.

Debt, credit, and investments

- ___ Avoid debt where possible; live a life where your assets are greater than your debts.
- ___ When you use credit cards, pay off the total amount each month.
- ___ Save a part of every paycheck.
- ___ Buy when you have the money; learn the value of delayed gratification.
- ___ Avoid paying interest; have people pay *you* interest.
- ___ Practice the virtues of thrift and frugality.
- ___ Be wary of get-rich-quick schemes; they are almost always a con.
- ___ Understand Harry Browne's Bulletproof Portfolio.
- ___ Invest in yourself, in building your own skills so you can take advantage of opportunities.
- ___ Find ways to support your community.
- ___ Give up being a slave.

* * *

The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation, should be one uniting all working people, of all nations, and tongues, and kindreds. Nor should this lead to a war upon property, or the owners of property. Property is the fruit of labor—property is desirable—is a positive good in the world. That some should be rich, shows that others may become rich, and hence is just encouragement to industry and enterprise. Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another; but let him labor diligently and build one for himself, thus by example assuring that his own shall be safe from violence when built. Abraham Lincoln, reply to New York Workingmen's Democratic Republican Association March 21, 1864.