

**August 1, 2026**

## **Local Church Budget**

A purse is a personal belonging that usually contains several items that are deemed essential to its owner. A pastor's wife was giving a talk to a group of ladies when she grabbed her purse and began to pull out various objects. As she pulled out each item, she explained what it meant to her. A cell phone: "This helps me stay connected." A wallet: "With this I can get everything I need." Tylenol: "This takes away my pain." Tide stick: "It removes stains." A knife: "This provides protection and makes me feel safe (though I only use it to peel my fruits)." Last, a chocolate kiss: "A little something sweet to pick me up when I'm feeling down and remind me that I am loved."

There are several spiritual lessons that can be drawn from the description of these items. One of them is that you need to prioritize what you carry in your purse. In other words, a purse should carry only the things you need. Having a personal relationship with Christ provides much the same things and even more than a purse.

Scripture declares, "His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness" (2 Peter 1:3, NIV).

Today, let us include Christ in the purse of our heart as we worship Him, through returning our tithes and offerings