Self-Control Analysis of Financial Expenditure in Managing Christian Household Finance

A study on Housewives, Member of GPM Silo Ambon City

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Abstract—Financial management is the process of how to manage the financial resources in a structured and systematic way to meet the needs of life. For Christians, Jesus Christ explains that one of the signs a person has a healthy spiritual life is to have the right attitude toward wealth. One of the triggers of Christian household conflicts is money, so it is important that the money be properly and responsibly managed together.

This research aimed to analyze the self-control over financial expenditure in managing Christian’s household finances, especially on the housewives, member of GPM Silo Ambon City. Analytical technique used was by using descriptive analysis technique. Data were obtained through questionnaires. The results show that housewives, member of GPM Silo, made various financial control attempts; they regularly save some of the income on the grounds that they are not wasteful, they will not burden the daily expenses and for unannounced purposes. This is done as a form of control over the financial spending in Christian households.

Keywords—control over financial expenditure, financial management, Christian household

I. INTRODUCTION

Observations on the study of financial behavior are not only in business firms but also in non-business enterprises such as educational environment, government officials and even households. One of the questions that need to be addressed to this non-business enterprise is related to financial management.

The financial management is the management of physical resources to meet the needs of life. Financial management is very important nowadays in view of the increasing consumption of the population as the increase in income and economic growth are improving. Let alone supported by luxury lifestyle factors; the desire to follow the lifestyle of others can trigger the individuals to make financial expenditure following their desire, not their needs.[1] There are 11 reasons why financial management needs to be done by individuals and families, which is to protect themselves and their families from various financial impacts (such as accidents, illness, death, and lawsuits), reduce personal or family debts, pay for life when it is no longer within the productive age range, it is related to the rising level of expectation of the average life of a person in a country, paying the costs necessary to raise a child, providing the cost of education of the child up to college, paying the cost of marriage, buying a vehicle, buying a home, being able to determine retirement with the lifestyle we want, paying long-term maintenance costs, and passing on the welfare to the next generation.[2] Similarly, Walker and Llewellyn's research on household accounting: some interdisciplinary perspectives that conclude that accounting practices in households and individuals are potentially similar to public institutions.[3]

Stated that not all individuals are accustomed to managing their personal finances, as they will only be aware when the financial condition in their surrounding undergoes significant changes.[1] This is what will cause problems in their finances. Many individuals have not been able to discern which needs are the most important. Based on research conducted by Wulandari on individual finances among households in Jogja shows that they have a high extravagant culture and there is no budget expenses. The results of the research concluded that there is difficulty in managing their personal finances.[4]

For Christians, Jesus Christ explains that one of the signs a person has a healthy spiritual life is to have the right attitude toward wealth. Sixteen of Jesus’ thirty-eight parables are related to money. One of the ten verses in the New Testament deals with finances. The Bible has 500 verses about prayer, less than 500 verses about faith, but more than 2,000 verses about money. Money is a very important issue
because one's attitude toward it is crucial to what it is to do with God, with regard to the fulfillment of His plan in this life.

One of the triggers of Christian household conflicts is money, so it is important that the money be properly and responsibly managed together. This research uses the respondents who already married that are the Christian housewives. There are many Christian families who experience financial problems until they have deficits and even debt, although their income is relatively large and sufficient. The problem is the inability to manage finances. The ability to manage finances will determine God's trust in us for His riches, Matthew 6:21 explains “For where your treasure is, there is your heart also”. Based on the background of existing problems, the research problems can be formulated as follow: What is the form of self-control over the financial expenditure in managing the household finances of Christians in the housewives, the member of GPM Silo Ambon City. This research aimed to analyze the self-control over financial expenditure in managing Christian’s household finances, especially on the housewives, member of GPM Silo Ambon City.

II. METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted on the housewives, the member of GMP Silo Ambon City located at AM Sangaji Street, Honipopu Sub-District, Sirimau District, Ambon City The population in this research is 766 housewives, member of GMP Silo Ambon City. This research used the concept of self-control over financial expenditure in managing finances, and the measuring tool used was questionnaire related to what is studied. The questionnaire consisted of 7 items of questions about the characteristics of the respondents and 5 items related to the form of self-control such as control, regular saving, integration, planned budget, distributed savings compiled using guttman scale. Guttman scale is the scale used for answers that are clear and consistent. n analyzing the data analysis technique used was descriptive analysis technique. This technique is used to determine the value of frequency and percentage of the form of self-control over financial expenditure in managing household finances.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

A. Theoretical Framework

Self control is typically manifested as our ability to break bad habits, resist temptation and overcome first impulses.[5] [6]. One way to define self-control is that constitutes the ability of our future selves to control our current self. When self control failure occurs, people act in a non optimal way and the might, for example, procrastinate at work even though they know that they would be better off spreading the workload over time.[7],[8] In conjunction with finance, self-control is an activity that can serve to emphasize purchases for the sake of mere pleasure or impulsion.[9]. In this research, self-control over financial expenditure can be used as a way of guiding individuals to prevent financial expenditures, especially for Christian households. Micrets said [10], self-control is how to overcome the use of funds for consumptive purposes, overcome the difficulty of saving, and help financial management. Self-control analysis of financial expenditure in managing personal finances can be divided into several related sub-concepts. Those sub-concepts are:[10]

1) Control; is that individuals have the ability to control themselves and their behavior to achieve goals and plans. What matters is not how much money we have or how much we earn, but how wisely we control spending (Proverb 21:20).

2) Regular Saving; is a way in which individuals regulate their savings on a regular basis. Theologically in Christianity, God directed Joseph to save for the future (Genesis 41:35), saving for the future shows God's wisdom and revealed other God's creations (Proverb. 21:20; 30:24-25; 6:6-8), saving for the future is the responsibility of service to meet both expected and unexpected needs of the family (1 Timothy 5:8; 2 Corinthians 12:14).

3) Integration; connects expenditure with the origin of money. Individuals try to reduce their expenditure by saving, recalling that they do not earn the money in easy way, but through hard work. One of the ways God provides for our needs is through work. Through work we can meet the needs of ourselves and our families (2 Thessalonians 3:6-12; Proverb 25:27), not for things that are not useful, considering we earn the money through hard work. The money we earn can also be used to support God's work and help those in need; the first priority is the children of God and the second is for those who are outside the faith (Galatians 6:6-10; Ephesians. 4:28; 3 John 5-8).

4) Planned Budget; means creating a budget that individuals have planned to improve the expenditure. Without a plan based on values, goals, biblical priorities, money becomes an evil lord and, like a leaf that enters into a whirl of wind, we drift into the pursuit of the world of treasure (Luke 12:13-23; 1 Timothy 6:6-10). Financial planning is a biblical one and it is a good service, to be free from materialism, and is a way to protect yourself from wasting the blessings God has entrusted to us (Proverb 27:23-24; Luke 14:28; 1 Corinthians 14:40). Financial planning must be done in dependence on God's command and in faith where we depend on God for security and happiness rather than on our own strength (Proverb 16:1-4, 9; Psalms 37:1-10; 1 Timothy 6:17; Philippians 4:19).

5) Distributed Savings; is the way individuals distribute deposits into certain items for the benefit of the future. The best investor ever known in biblical history is King Solomon. Solomon wrote give your share to seven or even debt, although their income is relatively large and sufficient. The problem is the inability to manage finances. In this research, the form of a way of guiding individuals to prevent financial expenditures, especially for Christian households.

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B. Characteristic of Respondents

Analysis of respondent's characteristic was used to obtain sample description in this research. Characteristics of respondents in this research were gender, age, employment, fixed income per month, and monthly expenditure. Summary of the various characteristics of respondents can be seen in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profile of Respondents’ Age</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-30 years old</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40 years old</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>37.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 years old above</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>48.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income per month</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000-3,000,000</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>45.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;3,000,000</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>38.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly expenditure</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000-3,000,000</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>76.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;3,000,000</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>23.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on table 1 it can be explained that the respondents are all female respondents (100%), where most of the respondents are above 40 years old (48.06%). Meanwhile, the monthly income earned by respondents mostly amounted to Rp1,000,000-Rp3,000,000, (45.45%), while the respondent’s expenditure is at most between Rp1,000,000-Rp3,000,000 or more than Rp1,000,000, though in fact there are respondents whose income is only Rp1,000,000.

C. Result and Discussion

The description of self-control over the financial expenditure of housewives, member of GPM Silo Ambon City can be seen in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1 shows the form of self-control over financial expenditure. The forms of self-control over the financial expenditure here are:

1. Housewives, member of GPM Silo Ambon City, made various attempts to control the finances (100%) as the main form of self-control over financial expenses such avoiding extravagance, vacation savings, unexpected needs etc. What matters is not how much money we have or how much we earn, but how wisely we control spending (Proverb 21:20).

2. Regularly keep some of the income for saving. Out of 77 respondents, there were 45 (58.44%) of respondents who kept some of their income. Theologically in Christianity, God directed Joseph to save for the future (Genesis 41:35), likewise as people who believe in God. However, many respondents did not keep some of their income for saving.

3. There were 10 people (12.98%) who recorded the budget to control the financials, some housewives did the budget recording to control finances in writing and some were not in writing. The Bible reminds us as Christians that financial planning or budgeting is a way of protecting ourselves from wasting the blessings God has entrusted to us (Proverbs 27:23-24; Luke 14:28; 1 Corinthians 14:40), so we will not be easily tempted to buy something unplanned.

4. They would make additional expenses if they earned extra income. There were 30 people (38.96%) who made additional expenditure on the grounds that it did not burden the daily costs or not reduce the money savings.

5. There were 27 people (35.06%) who made an investment. 27 people who invested had the reason that their expenditure does not exceed income and everyday needs can be fulfilled. The Bible explains that give your share to seven or even eight, because you do not know what misfortune will happen on earth (Ecclesiastes 11:2).

Overall, the results of this research indicate that housewives, member of GPM Silo Ambon City have good self-control over expenditure and have the awareness to use their income as well as possible, which is to make various
attempts to control the finances, keep some of their income for saving and investment, spend extra in case they have extra income, and record in their writing expenditure budget.

The housewives, member of GPM Silo Ambon City, who become the sample of this research, are included in the form of self-control and regular saving. They also have control as they have the ability to control themselves well and manage their behavior according to their ability by spending money wisely. These housewives, member of GPM Silo Ambon City are also in regular saving track because they can keep some of their income for savings as an effort to control the finances. This is in accordance with Hartono who said that behavior in financial management and self-control can provide their role in control. [12] Likewise it is in line with God's decree in, Jesus Christ explains that for one person has a healthy spiritual life is to have the right attitude toward wealth (Luke 16:11).

IV. CONCLUSIONS

From the results of research on self-control over the expenditure of housewives, member of GPM Silo Ambon City, in managing Christian's household, it can be concluded that:

1. The most widely performed form of self-control over financial expenditures is to make attempt in controlling finances (100%) as the main form of self-control over financial expenditure
2. The main reason for housewives, member of GPM Silo Ambon City, to make various attempts to control the finance is for avoiding extravagance, vacation savings, and unexpected needs.
3. Control measures such as financial budget recording and investing have not been optimally done by the housewives, member of GPM Silo Ambon City

This research has limitations that may affect the results of research to be achieved. The limitation includes incomplete instrument because it does not reveal the real things. The research also focuses on married women who possibly have good financial management so that further research is expected to focus on the unmarried.

REFERENCES