

BELIEVE

"Stewardship"

INTRODUCTION:

1. **Definition of Steward:** A steward is a house manager. A steward is one who manages that which is owned by another.

2. *Psalm 24:1*

3. **John McArthur** - *"How people view money is an effective barometer of their spirituality."*

4. **Luke 16:1-9**

(Three principles as to how God views our Possessions from "God and Your Stuff" by Wesley K. Willmer)

I. First - God Views Our Possessions As A Tool To Advance God's Kingdom

- **Here it is:** We all have limited time on this earth!!!! And limited opportunity and possessions...we must use them wisely.
- Wise stewards will assess all of their possessions to determine if they are being used wisely as tools on God's behalf.

II. Secondly - God Views Our Possessions As A Test With Eternal Consequences

(Our Possessions are like a 4-part take-home test)

- **Randy Alcorn** - *"God makes it apparent that it is His business to watch us with intense interest to see what we do with the money He has entrusted to us. We are being tested and what we do with our money will influence the course of eternity."*
- **The Test:** (This test reveals our spiritual maturity, character, and how much responsibility we will be given in heaven for eternity)

a) **Part One:** Who is master of your life?

1) **Luke 16:13**

b) **Part Two:** Demonstrates how much responsibility we are worthy of assuming in heaven.

1) What if at the Judgment Seat of Christ we are shown to have been irresponsible with the money entrusted to us?

2) As a result of the decisions we make on earth, God will assign us proportional responsibilities in heaven.

c) **Part Three:** How well have you shown yourself as a dispenser of God's Grace?

1) *1 Peter 4:10*

2) Are we imitators of God dispensing grace to those around us?

d) **Part Four:** Is an assessment of the Crowns we will earn in heaven.

1) *1 Corinthians 3:12-15*

2) *Matthew 6:19-21*

III. Thirdly - Our Possessions Are A Trademark of Who Made Us

- When your friends look at you...what brand or trademark do they see? Are you of this world in how you use possessions entrusted to you or are your values reflective of someone created by God and serving Him?
- *Luke 16:13*

Six Biblical Reasons For Giving

- **Reasons 1-3** deal with the tithe, which I believe is the starting point for biblical giving.
- **Reasons 4-6** deal with going beyond the tithe

I. TITHING HONORS THE BIBLICAL PRACTICE OF GIVING A TENTH

A. THANKSGIVING BECOMES A TITHE

1. *Genesis 14:18-20*

2. *Hebrews 7:1-7*

B. TITHING BECAME THE LAW (Obligation)

1. *Deuteronomy 14:22-23*

C. THE LAW BECAME FULFILLED

1. *Matthew 5:17, 27-28*

2. *Matthew 23:23* (Jesus on tithing)

D. TITHING BECAME THANKSGIVING

1. Galatians 2:14-16

II. TITHING HONORS GOD AS CREATOR AND OWNER OF ALL

1. Psalm 24:1

2. When we release a tenth of our income and give it over to the ministry of the Gospel, we honor the creator rights of God who owns everything, including our income.

3. *What you do with every cent says something about your view of God and what He means to you.* (Our church financial statement says something about how we view God)

4. Giving a tenth of our income to God does not deny that **all our money** belongs to God, it **proves that we believe it.**

5. John Piper said it this way, "*The tenth is yours, O, Lord, in a special way, because all of it is yours in an ordinary way.*"

III. TITHING IS THE ANTIDOTE TO GREED

1. Luke 12:13-15

a) "greed" - is selfish desire for more and more

2. Colossians 3:5

a) "idolatry" - is the **worship** of something other than the true God.

b) Greed places selfish desire above obedience to God. Therefore greed is idolatry.

3. Hebrews 13:5

4. **WOW!!!! Listen Up:** Every time you give a tithe, you deal with the desire for what you might have bought for yourself.

5. **God tests us every day:** What do we desire most - the advancement of his name or 10% more security and comfort and fun?

6. *Matthew 6:21*

IV. GIVING BEYOND THE TITHE IS GOD'S WAY OF BRINGING ABOUT GOOD DEEDS

1. *2 Corinthians 9:1-8 KJV*

a) Vs 7-8

2. *2 Corinthians 9:13-14*

3. *Titus 2:11-14*

4. *2 Corinthians 9:10-11*

V. GIVING BEYOND THE TITHE IS GOD'S WAY OF PROVIDING FOR YOU

1. *2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

2. *Malachi 3:10*

3. *Luke 6:38*

VI. GIVING BEYOND THE TITHE PROVES AND STRENGTHENS OUR FAITH

1. *Hebrews 13:5*

2. *Philippians 4:19*

3. **BIG QUESTION:** *Do you for one minute think that God is going to turn His back on you when you give for the sake of His glorious Gospel?*

CONCLUSION:

1. The reason you do not hear 10% heralded in the New Testament is because God expects us to give more under grace than under the Law.

2. *Malachi 3:6-12*