



Generosity

Weekend

Higher Level Worship

Baptist Church

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What The Bible Says About Giving

Introduction

God's plan for giving does emphasize giving through the Lord's Church. After all, Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

Jesus makes it plain that money can be a false god in our lives. Listen to what Jesus said, "No one can be a slave to two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot be slaves of God and of money." Matthew 6: 24 HCSB

In Scripture God has a financial plan for all to follow. When we follow God's plan, the results will be financial freedom for our family. Today we will look at two major truths.

1. God's path to financial freedom calls for obtaining money _____.

As a Christian, we must recognize God's Ownership. In Job 41:11 the Scriptures state, "Everything under heaven belongs to me." Psalm 24:1 states, "The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord."

Here's what these verses teach us:

a. The heavens and earth _____ to God.

b. _____ possessions belong to God

"The silver and the gold belong to Me" Haggai 2:8 HSCB

c. All the _____ belongs to the Lord

"The land is not to be permanently sold because it is Mine, and you are only foreigners and temporary residents on My land." Leviticus 25:23

d. The _____ belong to God.

"Do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body! I Cor. 6: 19-20

e. You are in partnership with God.

Responsibility # 1: Work and _____ God for the results.

God's part: to supply our needs

"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19

Responsibility # 2: Man's part is to _____.

"The Lord God took the man and placed him in the Garden of Eden to work it and to watch over it." Genesis 2:15

Responsibility # 3: To _____ with others, especially our families

"The thief must no longer steal. Instead, he must do honest work with his own hands, so that he has to something to share with anyone in need." Eph. 4:28

2. God's call to Financial Freedom calls for Developing a Biblical _____ system

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

Jesus gives us an illustration of materialism in Luke 12: 16-21

Why did Jesus call him a fool?

1. Look at what filled his mind.
 - a. He thought money would meet all his _____.
 - b. He thought he could leave God out of his _____.
 - c. He thought _____ could be found in money.
2. Here is what he left out of his thinking.
 - a. He did not think about God's _____.
 - b. He did not think about _____.
 - c. He did not think about _____.

Biblical principles that explain how we should live in regards to money.

Principle # 1: Live according to Biblical _____.

- a. God _____. "No one is to appear before Me empty handed. Observe the Festival of Harvest with the first fruits of your produce from what you sow in the field." Ex. 23:15-16
 1. First fruits giving mean God should get His part right off the _____.
 2. As we give the first fruits, we are expressing our _____ to God.
 3. As we give our first fruits, we are expressing our faith in God.
- b. Family should be _____. "Better a dry crust with peace than a house full of feasting with strife." Proverbs 17:1

Principle 2: Live wisely by being disciplined to SAVE for two reasons:

Reason # 1: _____ “In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.” Proverbs 21:20

Reason #2: Save for the _____. “Go to the ant, you slacker! Observe its ways and become wise. Without leader, administrator or ruler, it prepares its provisions in summer; it gathers its food during harvest.” Proverbs 6:6-8

Principle 3: Live a life of helping the_____.

“For there will never cease to be poor people in the land; that is why I am commanding you, you must be willing to poor you hand to your afflicted and poor brother in your land.” Deut. 15:11

Principle # 4: Be cautious with _____

Debt is not forbidden in Scripture. Two guidelines:

- a. Pay what you _____. “The wicked borrow and do not repay....” Ps. 27:21
- b. Follow the biblical concept of surety, meaning guarantee.
 1. First there is a warning against co-signing. Prov. 17:18 “ It is poor judgment to co—sign a friend’s note, to become responsible for a neighbor’s debt.”
 2. Surety warns against debt that exceeds the value of collateral.

Conclusion

If we knew the future, doing business the world’s way at times might work. However, only God knows the future, therefore the only safe way of handling money is God’s way.

“Come now you who say, now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business, and make money. Why? You do not know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.” James 4: 13-14

Two questions to ask yourself:

Am I using debt to climb above the lifestyle God intends for my family and or myself?

If it is a real need, will not God provide?

A Challenge to Give

Malachi 3:7-12

God has a plan for giving for His people outlined in detail in Scripture. However, God's plan has two parts:

1. _____ **Giving:** The tithe
2. _____ **sacrificial giving:** An offering

Lordship and _____ are synonymous.

If we are going to be _____, we will be givers!

We're going to walk through this passage of Scripture verse by verse and I want you to note five principles that it teaches.

Principle # 1: The _____ of God to His People

Verse 7: *"Return to me, and I will return to you!"*

- A. The _____: "return to Me"
- B. God's _____: "I will return to you"

Principle # 2: The _____ of the People Against God

Three questions: verses 7 & 8: *"How are we to return?"*

"Will a man rob God?"

"How Do we rob You?"

A tithe means a tenth **God's people are to give a tenth of what?**

"A tithe of everything belongs to the Lord, it is holy to the Lord," Leviticus 27:30

Notice two things:

1. A tithe of _____
2. A tithe is _____ to the Lord

Principle # 3: The _____ of God on His people

Principle # 4: The _____ of God on His People

“Bring the whole tithe...”vs. 10

God’s sequence:

- a. _____
- b. _____ tithe
- c. Into the _____
- d. _____ Me in this!

Principle # 5: The _____ of God to His people.

3 Promises:

- a. _____ Promise: “floodgates of heaven” vs. 10
- b. _____ Promise: “I will prevent the pestilence” vs. 11
- c. _____ Promise: “All nations will call you blessed” vs. 12

Conclusion

Folks, the process still works! Honor God through your tithes and offerings. God will bless your family, work and business endeavors. Lost people will recognize the goodness of God and turn to Him!

Grace Giving

2 Corinthians 8: 1-9

Introduction

Many of the important lessons in life are learned by following examples. In this passage, Paul offers two examples of giving, one a human example (Macedonian Churches) and the other is a divine example (Jesus Christ).

1. The example of the Macedonians 8: 1-8

A. Their _____

“And now brothers, we want you to know about the grace God has given the Macedonian churches.....” vs. 1

a. Grace _____

b. Grace exemplified

c. Grace _____

B. Their _____

“Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own.. (vs. 2-3)

a. They gave what they _____.

b. They gave beyond their _____.

C. Their _____

“They urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will.” Vs. 4-5

a. _____ to the Lord

b. To the _____

c. To the _____

2. Their _____ in Giving

A. Complete what you _____

B. _____ in your giving

C. Prove your _____

Biblical illustrations on proving your love:

- **The rich young ruler** Mark 10 17- 27
- **The good Samaritan** Luke 10: 25-37
- **Zaccheus** Luke 19: 1-10

3. The Example of Jesus Christ

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." Vs. 9

Three words describe this giving

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

Conclusion

Whose example will you follow?

- Will you follow the example of the Macedonians or Corinthians?
- The Corinthians had to be forced into giving. The Macedonians literally begged for the privilege of giving.

Whose example will you follow?

God's Plan for Financial Freedom

The Christian Should Handle Money Carefully

A. _____ God's Instructions

Step 1: Move Ownership From Self to God (Ps. 24:1)

Step 2: Understand Why God Allows Us to Possess _____

First, to extend His _____ (Matthew 28:18-20)

Second, to take care of our _____ (I Tim. 5:8)

Third, to take care of the _____ (I John 4:17)

Step 3: Be Cautious With _____.

a. Write out a plan of expenditures in their order of importance

1. Start with _____ 2. Define your _____ 3 Understand your desires

b. Have a _____ account

c. Use _____ only when necessary

Step 4: Follow the _____ Plan For Giving

a. Start with the _____

b. Include the _____

c. Do not forget the Christian's responsibility to the poor

Step 5: _____ God's Provisions (Philippians 4:19)

Step 6: Put _____ before Self (I Peter 4:9)

Step 7: Stay Away From _____ (Luke 9:23)

Step 8: Don't Make Snap _____ (Proverbs 21:5)

B. Tips For Money Management

Tip 1: Use A _____ Plan

- a. Start with available income
- b. Tithe and IRS taxes
- c. Net spendable income

Tip 2: Stay Within Your _____.

Tip 3: Do Not Allow _____ To Get Out Of Control

Tip 4: Manage Your _____ Carefully

Tip 5: Do Not Use _____ Wrongly Or Carelessly

C. A Plan For Financial Freedom (10-70-20)

Savings _____ %

- a. First Goal: Emergency Fund of 3 months income
- b. Second Goal: Cash Buying

Living Expenses _____ %

- a. Mortgage or Rent
- b. Car
- c. Household Expenses

Debt Reduction _____ %

- a. Paying off debt (credit cards)
- b. Facing your debts head on!

How to Make the 10-70-20 Plan Work!

a. Start with _____ income (gross)

1. Take out the _____ first— “first fruits”
- 2.. Subtract income taxes (IRS, state & social security)

b. After tithe and taxes are subtracted--- you discover your working Income

1. 10% of working income--- _____
 - a) EMERGENCY FUND
 - (b) CASH BUYING FUND
2. 70% of working income---**FIXED or** _____ **EXPENSES**

3. 20% of working income---_____ **RETIREMENT**

(Exception: one car & your house)

4. When debts are paid off---continue 20% for _____ planning

D. Financial Freedom Calls for _____ Planning

1. _____ In The Future. Reasons for investing...

- a. To give
- b. To live
- c. Help children get college education
- d. Help grown children/grandchildren
- e. Ensure certain lifestyle
- f. To leave. Ask yourself, "What will happen to my estate when I'm gone?"

2. Financial Freedom For The Future Includes Training for Your _____ To Handle Money Correctly

a. Teach proper attitude toward money

1. Teach Biblical principles in the _____

- a. Start with the foundational principle...God's ownership (Psalms 24:1)
- b. Continue with day-by-day principles. Teach your children...

3. Teach children the _____ of money

a. Teach by...

- 1. Example
- 2. Verbal teaching
- 3. Expectation

b. Teach responsibility

c. Teach basic _____ for handling finances

Ability #1: Teach children how to develop a financial plan

Ability #2: Give children an allowance and teach them how to use it wisely

Ability # 3: As they grow older, allow children to earn _____ by doing things around the house.

Ability # 4: As children move into high school, allow them to _____ outside the home.

Ability # 5: Teach children to perform services for others without _____.

Ability # 6: Teach good record keeping

Ability # 7: Teach children how to make _____.

Ability # 8: Insist children have an _____ account.

Ability # 9: Your child needs a _____ account at bank

The Christian Should Handle Money Carefully...Seminar Summary

A. GOD IS THE _____; MAN IS MANAGER

B. DON'T FORGET PROPER _____

C. YOUR GOAL: BECOME _____

D. PLAN PROPERLY FOR THE FUTURE