**Foundations Lesson #19A**

**Stewardship, Tithing, and Giving**

David Livingstone once said, “I will place no value on anything I may possess except in relation to the kingdom of Christ. If anything I have will advance the interests of that Kingdom, it shall be given away or kept only so that by giving or keeping it, I may promote the glory of Him, to whom I owe all my hopes in time and eternity.” An unknown author wrote, “The person who dedicates his money to God is dedicating himself – the fruit of his time, talent, and energy. One who fails to dedicate his money ***has not fully committed himself to God***.” As we can see from the two quotes above, how we handle our money and our possessions is highly important to God.

**I. Stewardship**

- God owns everything.

- Psalm 24:1 / Psalm 50:9-12 / Haggai 2:8 / John 3:27 / I Corinthians 10:26

- We are managers (stewards), who will be required to give an account of our management.

- Matthew 18:23; 25:14-30; 25:31-46 / Romans 2:6-11 / II Corinthians 5:9-10

- Biblical illustration: Joseph serving in the house of Potiphar (see Genesis 39:1-8)

- some cautions about going into debt – Proverbs 22:7 / James 4:14

- saving vs. hoarding

**II. Tithing**

- the sacred portion

- of the Garden of Eden: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – Genesis 2:15-17

- of the Promised Land: the city of Jericho – Joshua 6:17-19, 26 / I Kings 16:34

- of time: the Sabbath day – Deuteronomy 5:12-15 / Colossians 2:16-17

- of income: the tithe – Malachi 3:6-12

- tithing defined and explained

- The word “tithe” means tenth, or 10%.

- 90% of our income ***with*** the blessing of God goes further than 100% ***without***.

- Tithing is not just an Old Testament practice. Jesus himself said that we should not neglect tithing, not leave it undone. – Matthew 23:23 / Luke 11:42

- When it comes to the tithe, obedience results in blessing, but there is consequence to disobedience.

- The whole tithe is brought into the storehouse, which is the local church.

- The tithe should be undesignated. It is never a good idea to tell God how to spend his money.

- God's portion should be the ***first*** and the ***best***. – Proverbs 3:9-10 / Exodus 23:19a

- It is O.K. to test God in this area.

- One preacher has said: “The tithe is our rent payment to God for living on ***his*** earth and breathing ***his*** air. You don't want to get evicted.” ☺

**III. Giving**

- offerings, alms, and other gifts

- missions giving

- our attitude in giving

- cheerful – II Corinthians 9:7

- willing – II Corinthians 8:11-12

- with pure motives – Matthew 6:2-4

- giving changes our hearts – Matthew 6:19-21

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