

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