

T Tithing and Stewardship

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

This lesson goes to the heart of your relationship with God. Many Christians are found wanting here because their lives are motivated by *SELF* rather than by the SPIRIT of God.

Eternal salvation is a gift from God! Eternal security is a sure promise of God! In other words, we DO NOTHING to be saved and we DO NOTHING to remain saved. Praise God for this!

When we are born again, we are also adopted into the family of God. We are His children, and He is our Heavenly Father. In any family the children have responsibilities, and in this study, you are going to learn about one of **your** own responsibilities as a member of God’s family.

PRINCIPLES OF STEWARDSHIP

Before progressing into this lesson, it is vital to see and understand these key principles:

- A. Read: Psalm 24:1 — “The earth is the _ _ _ _ _’ _.”
Read: Haggai 2:8 — “The _ _ _ _ _ is mine, and the _ _ _ _ _.”
Read: Exodus 19:5 — “...for all the _ _ _ _ _ is _ _ _ _ _.”

PRINCIPLE #1: EVERYTHING BELONGS TO _____

- B. Read: Genesis 39:1-6.
 1. Who was the master in this story? _____
 2. Who was the servant in this story? _____
 3. According to *verse 4*, into what position was Joseph placed?

 4. According to *verse 4*, what was put into Joseph’s hand? _____

PRINCIPLE #2: STEWARDSHIP IS THE MANAGEMENT OF THE AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER.

C. Read: Matthew 25:14-15.

To whom did the Lord entrust His wealth? _____

PRINCIPLE #3: _____ CHRISTIAN IS A STEWARD.

D. Read: I Corinthians 4:2.

PRINCIPLE #4: IT IS REQUIRED OF STEWARDS THAT THEY BE FOUND _____.

AREAS OF STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is a subject that is often misunderstood. Many think it relates only to *MONEY*. Yes, money is **part** of God’s plan for stewardship, and it is important enough to be considered in some detail later, but it is only a *part* of God’s overall plan for you in this matter.

Before looking at some of the areas requiring our stewardship, write out the four principles you have just studied:

- #1:
- #2:
- #3:
- #4:

Every good thing we have is called a _____ that comes from God — *James 1:17*. As stewards, you and I are responsible to God in the *use* of such blessings.

Below are some of the more obvious areas over which we have been made stewards:

A. Stewardship of Our TIME:

1. According to *Ephesians 5:16*, we are to _____ the time. The word “redeem” means to “buy back” or “buy up.” This scripture teaches us to make every minute count for God.

2. According to *James 4:14*, our life span on this earth is likened to a V__ __ __ __ (when viewed in the light of eternity).
3. After reading *Romans 13:11-12*, how do you think a Christian should order his or her life? _____

4. According to *II Timothy 2:4^a*, what is one of the stumbling blocks to Christians in their stewardship of God-given time? _____

5. According to *Hebrews 10:25*, what is one area in which we are to give back to God the time He gives to us? _____

6. How much time do you really give to God??

Consider the regular opportunities presented through our Church:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School | 1 hour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morning Preaching | 1½ hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training Hour | 1 hour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evening Preaching | 1½ hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-week Prayer | 1½ hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visitation/Outreach | 2 hours |

TOTAL : 8½ hours minimum

(8-10 hours per week is around 5-6% of the total time God gives us. It is about 8-9% of our total hours awake, and, if we work a 40-hour-a-week job plus meals and family time, it is about 25% of our “available” time.)

B. Stewardship of Our TALENTS:

Read: *Matthew 25:14-30*. This is a parable about stewardship.

1. What did the Lord give to His servants? T__ __ __ __ __ .
(In Bible times, a “talent” was a very heavy weight, thus of great value — see: *I Chronicles 20:2; Revelation 16:1*). Today, we use the word to describe natural God-given abilities.)
2. Did every servant receive a talent? _____
3. Did every servant receive the same number of talents? _____
4. The basis for the lord’s dispensing of talents to his servants was “...each man according to his several __ __ __ __ __ .” See: *verse 15*.
5. According to *verse 19*, what did the lord do when He came returned?

6. What did the Lord say to those who had been good stewards? _____

7. Answer the following questions as either TRUE (T) or FALSE (F):

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. I have been given at least one talent. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. I am to use my talent(s) for Christ. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. I will not have to give an account to the Lord for what I do with my talent(s). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. If I don't use it, I'll lose it. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. My major concern should be to see how many talents I have been given. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8. Many Christians throw up their hands and say, "I CAN'T do anything for the Lord in my church!" What does *Philippians 4:13* have to say about such an attitude?

9. Read: *I Corinthians 12:12-27*. This passage likens our Church to a human body, calling it the "**Body of Christ**," with each member a "body part."

- We cannot all be the same body part — *verses 17,19*.
- God has put you into the body for a definite function — *verse 18*.
- Every church member is N_____ — *verse 22*.

C. Stewardship of Our TESTIMONY:

- According to *Philippians 2:15^e*, we are to "shine as _____ in the world."
- In *Matthew 5:14-16*, Jesus said that stewardship requires us letting our light _____ before _____.
- According to *1 Peter 3:15*, we are to be _____ always to give an _____ to every man who asks why we have such hope in Christ.
- According to *1 Thessalonians 2:4*, Christian preachers have been "put in _____ with the _____" as good stewards of TRUTH.
- Paul said the glorious Gospel he preached was _____ to his _____ — *1 Timothy 1:11*.

D. Stewardship of Our TEMPLE:

1. According to *I Corinthians 6:19-20*, our human body is a _____ wherein dwells the Holy Ghost (see: *II Timothy 1:14; Romans 8:11*).
2. In *Romans 12:1*, we are exhorted to _____ our bodies to Christ as a L_____ S_____.
3. It is with our physical bodies that we serve the Lord. Read: *Philippians 1:20-22; 2:17*.
4. How do we present our body to Christ? Answer: What was Saul’s prayer after he was converted to Christ?
 “Lord, what wilt thou _____ me to _____” — Acts 9:6.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE

The same principles of stewardship which apply to our time, talents, and testimony are given for the management of our MONEY.

ALL the money you have and receive IS FROM GOD and IS GOD’S.

Look up: *Deuteronomy 8:18*. Even though we may *earn* our money through the labor we put forth, this verse tells us it is the “_____ thy _____” Who gives us power (ability and strength) to get it.

The stewardship of God’s money is usually referred to in the Bible as:

TITHES and OFFERINGS

The following scriptures will teach you what the Bible says concerning tithes and offerings:

A. Exactly What IS a Tithe? Compare: *Genesis 14:20* with *Hebrews 7:2*.

It is: _____

☞ What is a tithe from \$500? _____

B. Is the Practice of Tithing Required of New Testament Christians?

1. Some people (often those who do not want to tithe) believe tithing was an Old Testament practice for the Jews only. It was given under the Law; and the Christian is not under the Law, but under grace (*Romans 6:14^b*).

However, consider the following scriptures:

- A_ _ _ _ _ Commenced it (*Genesis 14:18-20*).
- J_ _ _ _ _ Continued it (*Genesis 28:20-22*).
- M_ _ _ _ _ Confirmed it (*Leviticus 27:30*).
- M_ _ _ _ _ Commanded it (*Malachi 3:10*).
- J_ _ _ _ _ Commended it (*Matthew 23:23*).
- G_ _ _ _ _ Commissioned (ordained) it (*I Corinthians 9:14*).
- P_ _ _ _ _ Conformed it (*I Corinthians 16:2*).

2. A study of these scriptures proves tithing is a SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLE. Abraham and Jacob tithed 500 years **before** the Law was given from Mount Sinai. Moses, Malachi, and Jesus addressed tithing **under** the dispensation of the Law, and the Apostle Paul explained and applied the principle of tithing for this present day of grace — **after** the Law.

Christians ought to tithe!

C. How Should Christians Practice Tithing?

1. Under the Law, tithing was commanded. Under grace, we do not tithe legalistically, but because we love the Lord.
“For the _ _ _ _ _ of Christ _ _ _ _ _ ETH (“compels”) us...”
— *II Corinthians 5:14^a*.
2. Do you think God would ask less love, less faith, and less cheerful giving from a New Testament Christian than from a Jew under the Law? Tithing, for the Christian, is not a matter of bondage.

D. Where Should a Christian Place His or Her Tithe?

1. During the Old Testament times, the tithes were to be brought into the S_ _ _ _ _ — *Malachi 3:10*. This was the treasury of the temple at Jerusalem. See: *II Chronicles 31:11-12^a*; *Nehemiah 10:38*.
2. From *Acts 4:35,37* and *Acts 5:2*, we learn that the early Christians brought their tithes and offerings into the church assembly and laid them at the _ _ _ _ _ of the _ _ _ _ _.
3. The command given in *I Corinthians 16:2* to the churches is to lay up in the offering that was being collected in S_ _ _ _ _ — a command that was clearly given to the churches and their members (*verses 1,3*).
4. Today the storehouse for your tithe is the treasury of your church. It is not God’s plan for you to give your tithe wherever you decide.

E. Why are We to Tithe to Our Church?

There is a principle:

- 1. *Malachi 3:10* — “...that there may be _ _ _ _ in my _ _ _ _ .”

The tithes and offerings were used for the temple ministry and for the needs of the priests and Levites, etc.

- 2. Read: I Corinthians 9:13-14. The Old Testament practice is being referred to in *verse 13*, while *verse 14* carries the same principle (“*even so*”) over to the New Testament churches. Your tithes and offerings are for the support, upkeep, and ministry of your church. Therefore, tithes should **never** be designated — they are to be left free for use as the church body decides.

F. What Did God Call those who Refused to Tithe?

Malachi 3:8 — _____

G. What Promise Did God Give Those Who DO Tithe?

Malachi 3:10^b — _____

H. Whose Is the Tithe?

Leviticus 27:30 — The tithe is the _ _ _ _ ’ _ .

Ten percent of your gross income IS NOT YOURS — it belongs to God.

I. How Can I Please My Lord When Tithing?

- 1. *Matthew 6:33* — give the Lord _ _ _ _ _ place in everything.

- 2. *Proverbs 3:9* — honor the Lord with the _ _ _ _ _-fruits.

(This means one should set aside the tithe first before all other bills and expenses are paid. If you leave the tithe until last, God usually misses out.)

- 3. *I Corinthians 16:2* — bring the tithe on the _ _ _ _ _ day.

WHAT ABOUT AN “OFFERING”?



People might feel they have done God a great favor by tithing. However, strictly speaking, we do not GIVE the tithe because it not ours to give. It is God’s portion. It is only *after* we have tithed that can we give an offering unto the Lord.

★ *Malachi 3:8* speaks of “tithes AND _ _ _ _ _ .”

★ Tithing requires an obedient heart but *giving* requires a _ _ _ _ _ I N G heart — *Exodus 35:5*.

- ★ Study: *Ezra 1:4; 3:5; 7:16; 8:28*. The Bible refers to offerings as “ _____ offerings.”
- ★ According to *II Corinthians 8:5*, the people in the churches of Macedonia first _____ to the Lord.
- ★ According to *II Corinthians 9:7*, what kind of giver does God love to bless?
A _____ giver.
- ★ If we tithe and give an offering, will the Lord allow us to suffer and go without the necessities of life — *II Corinthians 9:8*? _____

Having studied the Word of God relating to the subject of Tithes and Offerings, and realizing it is God’s perfect will for me to obey Him by systematically tithing on my income, I now resolve to make tithing a practice in my life — and to give an offering to the Lord as He speaks to my heart about it.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *Luke 6:38*.