

T Tithing and Stewardship

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

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

Salvation is a free gift from God! Eternal security is a sure promise of God! In other words, we *DO NOTHING* to get saved or remain saved. Praise God for this!

When we are born again, we are 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 **your** own responsibilities as a member of God’s family.

PRINCIPLES OF STEWARDSHIP.

Before you progress into this lesson, it is absolutely vital that you see and understand these 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 _____
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- 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*, what was Joseph made? _____
 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 _____ .

AREAS OF STEWARDSHIP.

Stewardship is often misunderstood – many think it relates only to *MONEY*. 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 part of God’s overall plan for you.

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 _____ which comes from God – *James 1:17*. As stewards, you and I are responsible to God in the use of such things. Below are some of the more obvious areas over which we have been made stewards:

A. Stewardship Of TIME.

1. According to *Ephesians 5:16*, we are to _____ the time. This means to make every minute count for God.

2. According to *James 4:14*, our time on earth is compared to a V _ _ _ _ (in the light of eternity).
3. From reading *Romans 13:11,12*, what kind of Christian do you think the Lord wants you to be? _____
4. According to *II Timothy 2:4a*, what is one of the greatest stumblingblocks for Christians in the management 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 opportunities presented in our Church:

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

TOTAL :6 hours minimum

(6 to 8 hours per week is less than 5% of the total time God gives us. It is about 7% of our total hours awake, and if we have a 40-hour-a-week job, it is about 10% of our "available" time.)

B. Stewardship Of Our TALENTS.

Read *Matthew 25:14-30*. This is a parable the Lord Jesus told to teach us about stewardship.

1. What did the Lord give to His servants? T _ _ _ _ _ .
(In Bible days a talent was an expensive coin, but today it refers to natural God-given abilities.)
2. Did every servant receive a talent? _____
3. Did every servant receive the same number of talents? _____
4. What was the basis of the Lord's dispensing of responsibility to His servants? See: *verse 15*.
"...each man according to his several _ _ _ _ _ ."
5. According to *verse 19*, what did the Lord do when He came back? _____

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 my talents. | <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 "body," calling it the "**Body of Christ.**" Each individual member is like a part of the human body.

- We cannot all be the same thing — *verse 19*.
- God has put you into a church for a definite function — *verse 18*.
- Every member of our Church is N _ _ _ _ _
— *verse 22*.

C. Stewardship Of Our TESTIMONY.

- According to *Philippians 2:15e*, we are to "shine as _ _ _ _ _ in the world."
- According to *Matthew 5:14-16*, good stewardship involves _____
- According to *I Peter 3:15*, we are to "be _ _ _ _ _ always to give an _ _ _ _ _ to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you..."

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) 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. Look up and compare *Genesis 14:20* with *Hebrews 7:2*. What is a tithe? _____
- B. What would be a tithe from \$200.00? _____
- C. Is the practice of tithing for New Testament Christians?
1. Some people (usually those who do not want to tithe) say tithing was an Old Testament practice for Jews only. It was given under the Law; and the Christian is not under the Law, but under Grace — *Romans 6:14b*. However, look at 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 it — *I Corinthians 9:14*
P _____ Conformed it — *I Corinthians 16:2*

2. A study of these Scriptures shows that tithing is a **SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLE**. Abraham and Jacob tithed 500 years *BEFORE* the Law was instituted. Moses, Malachi, and Jesus spoke of tithing *DURING* the period of the Law. The Apostle Paul explained tithing *AFTER* the Law.

Christians ought to tithe!

D. How should Christians practice tithing?

1. Look up: *II Corinthians 5:14*. Under the Law tithing was commanded. Under Grace, we do not tithe legalistically, but because we love the Lord. "For the _____ of Christ _____ us..."
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.

E. Where should a Christian place his or her tithe?

1. According to *Malachi 3:10*, the tithes were to be brought into the _____ . For the Jews, this storehouse was the treasury of the Temple at Jerusalem.
2. According to *Acts 4:35,37* and *Acts 5:2*, the Christians brought their tithes and offerings to the A _____ , F _____ .
3. According to *I Corinthians 16:2*, we are to lay up our giving in: S _____ . Subsequent verses show this storehouse was the church at Corinth, to whom the Epistle was initially addressed.
4. Today the storehouse for your tithe is your **CHURCH**. It is not God's plan for you to give your tithe wherever you decide.

F. Why are we to place our tithe into our Church?

1. *Malachi 3:10* says, "...that there may be _____ in my _____ ." The tithes and offerings were used for the Temple and the Temple ministry (i.e., the priests, etc.).
2. Read: *I Corinthians 9:13,14*. Verse 13 relates to the Old Testament practice, and verse 14 carries this principle over to New Testament churches. Your tithes and offerings are for the support, upkeep, and ministry of your church. Tithes should **never** be designated — they are to be left free for use as the church body decides.

G. What does God call us if we refuse to tithe?

Malachi 3:8. _____

H. What is the promise God gives to those who faithfully tithe? *Malachi 3:10b*

I. Whose is the tithe?

Leviticus 27:30. The _____.

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

J. 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 my _____ fruits.

(This means to 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”?



Many people would feel they have done God a great favor just by tithing! But we do not **GIVE** the tithe – it's **not ours** to give. Only after we have faithfully tithed can we give an offering unto the Lord.

I. *Malachi 3:8* speaks of “tithes AND _____.”

II. Tithing requires an **obedient** heart, but giving requires a:
_____ heart – *Exodus 35:5*.

III. Study: *Ezra 1:4; 3:5; 7:16; 8:28*.

The Bible refers to offerings as _____ offerings.

IV. According to *II Corinthians 8:5*, the people in the churches of Macedonia first _____ to the Lord.

V. According to *II Corinthians 9:7*, what kind of giver does God love? _____

VI. If we tithe and also 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 concerning the subject of Tithes and Offerings, and realizing it is God's perfect will for me to obey Him by tithing systematically 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.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

MEMORIZATION:

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