

**The Department of Church Growth and Development Spiritual Emphasis Week
Expanded Outline for January 3-9, 2016
Theme: Teaching Believers the Importance of Christian Stewardship**

Topic: Biblical Lessons on Christian Stewardship

Scripture Reference: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Proposition: Christian Stewardship is an acknowledgement of God's divine ownership of the World, the fullness there of and he has a perfect right to govern and dispose of all as seemeth good in His sight, yet He has placed the management of His world in our care. We must prove ourselves to be good stewards for His glory.

1. The first step in our Christian Stewardship is that of giving ourselves to God.

(2Corinthian 8:1-5)

- a. Christian Stewardship should not depend on favorable circumstances. (v.2)
- b. Christian Stewardship is the response of a willing heart. (v.3)
- c. Christian Stewardship is a demonstration of our love and concern. (v.4)
- d. Christian Stewardship is an easy response when we give ourselves to God. (v.5)
- e. Christian Stewardship makes it possible to give ourselves to God's delegated authority. (v.5)

2. Once we give ourselves to Christ, then He has our treasures also. (2 Co. 8:5)

- a. Christian Stewards have received power and are willing to share the Gospel message, both by their preaching and suffering. (Acts 1:8)
- b. Christian Stewards have received special gifts and are willing to use their gifts and graces to advance the kingdom of God. (1 Peter 4:7-11)
- c. Christian Stewards have received increase from the Lord's hand and are willing to honor the Lord with their substance. (Proverbs 3:8)
- d. Christian Stewards who have given their heart to Christ, their treasures to God and His cause, can expect a bountiful harvest from the Lord. (Proverbs 3:7, 8, 10)
 1. A harvest of good health (v.7)
 2. A harvest of abundance increase. (v.10)
 3. A harvest of new joy and fulfillment. (v.10)
- e. Christian Stewards doing works of charity, and other good works, should perform such acts with thought and design to receive God's best. (2 Corinthian 9:6-9)

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Topic: Biblical Lessons on Giving Alms

Scripture Reference: Matthew 6:1-4

Proposition: An important aspect of our Christian Stewardship is the wise and faithful use of the treasures with which God has entrusted us. Our giving of alms should be a holy duty, carefully performed, not for our own honor, but for God's pleasure.

Since we will have the poor with us always, a part of our Christian stewardship is to give alms to the poor. How should they be given and why? (Matt. 26:11)

1. Christian stewards do not give alms to impress men. (Matt. 6:1, 2)
2. Christian stewards do not give alms to receive the temporary reward of men. (6:2)
3. Christian stewards giving alms in secret attracts God's attention and receives God's Reward. (Matt.6:3)
4. Christian stewards who are anxious to have their donations publicly acknowledged, and will give nothing unless it be put down upon a printed list, should take warning from these words. (Matt 6:4)
5. Christian stewards are promised special blessings for giving to the poor. (Proverbs 19:17)
6. Christian stewards who give to the poor and to the Lord's cause make deposits in the Bank of Eternity. (Matt.6:19)
7. Christian stewardship reflects the position of the believer's heart as it relates to where his treasure is laid up.(Matt. 6:20)
8. Christian stewards entrust their treasures to God for safe keeping from decay, and robbery: for in no other place is their treasure secure. (Matt. 6:21)
9. If our choicest possessions are of the earth, our heart will be earth-bound. (Matt. 6:21)
10. If God be the treasure of our souls, our hearts, our affections and desires will be placed on things above. An earthly minded man proves that his treasure is below; a heavenly minded man shows that his treasure is above. (Luke 12:33,34)
11. Christian stewards choose to do good at whatever time or place, and in whatever manner they can.(Gal. 6:10)
12. Christian Stewardship is the true test of our Godly love. (1 John 3:16-17)

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Topic: Biblical Lessons on Old Testament Biblical Tithing

Scripture Reference: Genesis 14:7-20; 28:20-22, Malachi 3:7-12

Proposition: A vital part of our Christian Stewardship is that of giving our tithes to God. A study of the Biblical Tithe is important because informed Christian Stewards can give in faith, love, claiming the promises of God without becoming legalistic.

1. Biblical tithing preceded the Mosaic Law. (Genesis 17-20)

- a. Abraham, the father of the faithful is the first known tither in the Bible. (14:17-20)
 - 1) He tithed as an act of gratitude to God.
 - 2) He tithed voluntarily and not because he had to tithe.
 - 3) He tithed through the priesthood.
- b. Jacob, Abraham's grand son was a tither. (Genesis 28:20-22)
 - 1) He had a personal encounter with God.
 - 2) He voluntarily vowed to give God tithes for the rest of his life.

2. Biblical tithing was a part of the Mosaic Law.

- a. The tithe was holy unto the Lord. (Lev. 27:30)
- b. Failure to tithe was a serious matter to God. (Mal. 3:7-9)
 - 1) Failing to tithe is moving away from God's ordinance. (7)
 - 2) Failing to tithe robs God of the opportunity to bless His Children.(8)
 - 3) Failing to tithe may result in moving under God's Curse.(9)
- c. Faithfulness to biblical tithing will result in God's blessing. (Mal. 3:7-12)
 - 1) It is a way of returning to God in faithful obedience. (7)
 - 2) It assures that there will be meat in God's house. (10)
 - *Tithes are used to support the ministry of the church.*
 - *Tithes are used to care for the house of God.*
 - *Tithes are used to minister to the community through outreach.*
 - 3) It results in the windows of heaven being opened in our lives. (10)
 - 4) It brings an overflow of God's great blessings. (10)
 - *Finances blessing will come from unexpected sources.*
 - *The other 90% will go farther than expected.*
 - *Spiritual blessing will be manifest through answered prayers.*
 - *Unusual solutions to life's problems and creative ideas in reaching goals.*
 - *New attitudes and conduct that will glorify God and bless mankind.*
 - 5) It results in the devourer being rebuked. (11)
 - 6) It results in others recognizing that God's blessings are upon us.(12)
 - 7) It results in joy for the people of God and all they encounter. (12)

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Topic: Biblical Lessons on Giving Freewill Offering

Scripture Reference: Leviticus 1:2, 3; 1Chronicles 29:9; 2Corinthians 9:7

Proposition: The owner or Christian steward must offer their offerings voluntarily. What is done in religion, so as to please God, must be done by no other constraint than that of love for God accepts the willing people and the cheerful giver.

1. God gave guidelines for giving offering and sacrifice that we might serve Him with honour, and obtaining of His favour. (Lev. 1:2, 3)
 - a. If the Children bring an offering, let it be from their flocks. (v.2)
 - b. If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of his herd, let it be a male without blemish. (v.3)
 - c. Let the offering be offered voluntarily without constraint or force. (v.3)
 - d. Let the offering be offered at the door of the tabernacle (given over to the priest.(v.3)
 - e. Let the offerings and sacrifices be offered the way God prescribed. (v.4-9)

2. What is done in works of piety and charity should be done willingly, not by constraint; for God loves a cheerful giver. David set a good example. David offered, not from constraint, or for show; but because he had set his affection to the house of God, and thought he could never do enough towards promoting that good work. (1Chronicles 29:1-9)
 - a. Those who solicit freewill support must cast the vision clearly. (v.1)
 - b. Those who would draw others to do good, must lead the way themselves. (v.2-4)
 - c. Those who lead must lead with passion and challenge others to follow. (v.5)
 - d. Those who receive freewill offering and do God's business should keep an accurate account of them, lest scandal arise. (v. 8)
 - e. Those who give God's way can expect to experience great joy! (v. 9)

3. Although offering should be given without constraint, Christian stewards will be rewarded in proportion to what, from love to Christ, they do for His cause. (2Corinthians 9:6-9)
 - a. Christian stewards who give liberally shall be rewarded liberally by God (v.6)
 - b. Christian stewards should give in a deliberate matter. (v. 7)
 - 1) *Give according as he has purposed in his heart.*
 - 2) *Give understanding that God loves a cheerful giver.*
 - 3) *Give not grudgingly or reluctantly.*
 - 4) *Give not out of necessity, under pressure or force.*

- c. Christian stewards must resist the common objection against liberal alms-giving; men are afraid they shall want themselves, what they give away to others.(v. 8)
- 1) God is able to make all grace abound toward you.
 - 2) God will cause you to always have all sufficiency in all things.
 - 3) God will cause you to abound to every good work, so as to have more to give.
 - 4) God's promise in this verse is truly remarkable! Each phrase is loaded with matter and increases all the way it goes.
 - a. All grace or favor meaning every kind of blessing: Spiritual and temporal.
 - b. Our lives will abound to every good work that we will be able to do more.
 - c. The more we sow, the more blessings will be bestowed on us.
 - d. All rewards given will allow us to do more and become seeds for a future harvest.
- e. Christian Stewards must maintain a bountiful eye that looks for opportunities to be a blessing. (Proverbs 22:9; Proverbs 11:24-26)
- 1) A bountiful eye means the bountiful heart.
 - 2) A bountiful heart looks through a merciful eye.
 - 3) A merciful heart shall be blessed of the Lord, even when the hand has little or nothing to give.
 - 4) A liberal soul shall be made more prosperous.
 - 5) He who gives to the distressed, in the true spirit of charity, shall get a hundred fold from God's mercy.

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Scriptural Text: Matthew 25:14-30; Proverbs 18:9; 19:17, 21:20

Proposition: As important as tithes and offerings are, another major part of Christian stewardship is the wise, proper and faithful use of the other 90%. Many Christian stewards are guilty of the misuse of resources. All faithful Christian stewards should do the following:

1. Make sure that we take care of our families. (1Timothy 5:8)
2. Make sure that we give to charity and help those in need. (Proverbs 19:17)
3. Make sure that we save, invest wisely, and prepare for retirement. (Matt. 25:14-30)
4. Make sure that we do not waste God's resources. (Proverbs 18:9; 21:20)
5. Make sure that we are generous. We can give our way to prosperity. (Proverbs 3:9, 10)
6. Make sure that we adopt generosity as a part of your prosperity plan. (Proverbs 11:24, 25)

Additional important Scripture references:

Malachi 3:10,11

Luke 6:38

2 Corinthians 9:6

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Scriptural Text: Deuteronomy 8:17, 18; 2 Corinthians 9:9-14

Proposition: Although many promises of God are connected to giving, the heart of our Christian Stewardship is having the right motivation for giving. We are motivated to give because:

1. Giving is one of God's methods to support His Kingdom enterprise. (Deuteronomy 8:18)
2. Giving is good for us. (Acts 20:35)
3. Giving supports God's ministers, clergy and laity. (Romans 13:6)
4. Giving in the light of the tax advantages. (Romans 13:7)
5. Give in the light of the Church's survival. (1Corinthians 16:2)
6. Give in the light of God's possible chastening and greater blessing. (Malachi 3:10, 11)
7. Give in the light of the fact that God loves a cheerful giver. (2Corinthians 9:7)
8. Give in the light of God's Glory. (1Corinthians 10:31; 2Corinthians 4:15; 1Peter 4:11)