

## PRINCIPALS OF STEWARDSHIP

Cor. 16:1-2

### I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. The Bible teaches that God gives us everything we have...*Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV) "And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth..." 1 Chronicles 29:12 (NKJV) "Both riches and honor come from You (God)..." Proverbs 10:22 (NKJV) "The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it." ...1 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV) "...And what do you have that you did not receive?... James 1:17 (NKJV) "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights..."*
- b. According to the Bible at the Judgment Seat of Christ...God is going to judge believers for how we managed...the time, talent and treasures He gave us.

### II. THE PARTICULARS OF STEWARDSHIP-

- a. #1, The Bible says that we are stewards of the gospel. *1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NKJV) "But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts."*
- b. Those who have been saved by the gospel...have been entrusted by God to share the gospel of Jesus Christ...with those who are lost.
- c. At the Judgment Seat of Christ...God is going to judge us for what we did with the gospel...did we hoard the gospel and keep it to ourselves?...did we neglect the opportunities we had to share the gospel with others?...or were we faithful in sharing the gospel with others?
- d. #2, The Bible says that we are stewards of our time. *Colossians 4:5 (NKJV) "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time."*
- e. The Bible says that at the Judgment Seat of Christ...God will judge how we used our time...How much of our time did we waste on things that didn't matter? ... Did we wisely invest the time God gave us in learning more about Him...in worshiping Him ... serving Him ...and making Him known?
- f. #3, The Bible says that we are stewards of our talents....God gives a special talent of service to every Christian...at the Judgment Seat of Christ...God will judge every one of us for how we used the gift God gave us to serve others...to build up the church...and to advance the Kingdom of God.
- g. #4, The Bible says that we are stewards of our treasure....we are stewards of the money and possessions God gives us...at the Judgment Seat of Christ...we will be judged for how managed and used the money and possessions God gave us.

- h. An important part of managing the money God gives us...is giving to the Lord ... last week we looked at some of what the Old Testament said about giving ...today from 1 Corinthians 16:1-2...we are going to look at four principals of New Testament giving.

### III. THE PRINCIPALS OF STEWARDSHIP-

- a. #1, New Testament giving is planned giving. *1 Corinthians 16:2 (NKJV) "On the first day of the week..."*
- b. The Bible teaches that our giving to the Lord is to be regular and planned...week by week...literally "Sunday by Sunday"...we are to give to the Lord...as we worship Him with God's people in the Lord's House.
- c. #2, New Testament giving is personal giving. *1 Corinthians 16:2 (NKJV) "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside..."*
- d. Every Christian is responsible for being a steward of the blessings the Lord gives them ...no one is exempt...*Romans 14:12 (NKJV) "So then each of us shall give account of himself to God."*
- e. In your lifetime if you averaged making \$30,000 a year for 40 years...that means God would have placed in your hands the stewardship of 1.2 million dollars.
- f. At the Judgment Seat of Christ...you would be judged for what you did with the 1.2 million dollars God gave you...did you honor the Lord with the money He gave you?...did you give to the Lord and invest in the work of His Kingdom? ... were you wise with the money God gave you?...or did you spend it all on yourself? ... did you waste what God gave you on things of no eternal value?
- g. #3, New Testament giving is proportionate giving...*1 Corinthians 16:2 (NKJV) "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper..."*
- h. The first ten percent of everything we make belongs to God...but for the Christian the tithe is the minimum we should give...not the most.
- i. New Testament giving begins with a percentage...but it is based on a proportion ... the more God blesses us financially the more we should give...even above and beyond the tithe.
- j. Sometime giving God 10% is just not enough to express...the thanksgiving and praise that God deserves for His blessings to us...our giving should begin with the tithe...but as God prospers us we should give more.

- k. If God is blessing you financially...do you think it is because God wants to increase your standard of living...or is it because God wants you to increase your standard of giving?
- l. Usually when a person asks "*Should I tithe on the net or on the gross of my income?*"... they are really wanting to know..."*What is the absolute minimum that I have to give to God?*"
- m. This point of this question is not so someone can give more to God...it is always so they can give less.
- n. Asking this question is like going to your Mom on Mother's Day...and asking her, "*Mom what is the least amount of money I can spend on you this year and get away with it?*"
- o. Your tithe check to God should be the first check you write...before your pay your bills...before you buy your stuff...and it should at least be a tithe of everything that God has given you.
- p. Some people say, "*I don't believe tithing is for today*"...do you think Christians living on this side of the cross...should give less to God than the people gave in the Old Testament?
- q. #4, New Testament giving is purposeful giving...the purpose of New Testament giving is to be a part of the greatest work of all...the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.
- r. Giving to God is not about the need of the church...it is about being a part of something that is truly life changing.

#### IV. CONCLUSION-

- a. When you go to Heaven you will not be able to take your toys with you...you won't be able to take the stuff of this world that you have accumulated with you...the only thing of this world that will go to Heaven with you...are those you have lead to Christ.
- b. Give so you can hear..."Well done thou good and faithful servant."