

Bible Study – Christian Stewardship
Rediscovering Tithing as a vital Part of Christian Stewardship

Scripture Lesson: Malachi 3:7-12

Key Verse: Malachi 3:10

Proposition: Since Christian Steward is the wise and faithful use of that which God has entrusted to us. An important aspect of our Christian Stewardship is the wise and faithful use of the treasures, gifts, and talents with which God has entrusted to our care.

- 1. The first step in our Christian Stewardship is that of giving ourselves to Christ.**
 - a. Once we give ourselves to Christ, then He has our treasures also. (2 Cor. 8:5)
 - b. Once we give our hearts to Christ, then He has our treasures also. (Matt. 6:21)
- 2. A vital part of our Christian Stewardship is that of giving our tithes to God.**
 - a. Tithing preceded the Mosaic Law.
 - i. Abraham is the known tither in the Bible. (Genesis 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.
 - ii. Jacob was a tither. (Genesis 28:20-22)
 1. He had a personal encounter with God.
 2. He vowed to give God tithes for the rest of his life.
 - b. Tithing was a part of the Mosaic Law.
 - i. The tithe was holy unto the Lord. (Lev. 27:30)
 - ii. The failure to tithe is a serious sin against God. (Malachi 3:7-9)
 1. Failing to tithe is going away from God's ordinance. (7)
 2. Failing to tithe is robbing God. (8)
 3. Failing to tithe results in coming under God's curse. (9)
 - iii. The Faithfulness in tithing will result in God's blessing. (Malachi 3:7-12)
 1. It is a way of returning to God. (7)
 2. It assures that there will be meat in God's house. (10)
 - a. Money to support the ministry.
 - b. Money to care for God's house.
 - c. Money to minister to the community.
 3. It results in the window of heaven being opened. (10)
 - iv. It brings God's blessings in overflowing measure. (10)
 1. Financial blessings
 - a. Finances will come from unexpected sources.
 - b. The other 90% will go farther as we follow God's wisdom.
 2. Spiritual blessings

- a. Answers to Prayers
 - b. Solutions to life's problems.
 - c. Ideas that can change our lives and alter our careers.
 - d. Attitudes which can enhance our relationships.
 - e. Conduct which can glorify God and help others.
 - 3. It results in the devourer being rebuked. (11)
 - 4. It results in others recognizing that God has blessed us. (12)
 - 5. It results in joy for the people of God. (12)
 - c. Tithing goes beyond the Mosaic Law.
 - i. Jesus commended tithing. (Matt. 23:23)
 - ii. Paul taught proportionate giving. (1Cor. 16:2)
 - iii. Many New Testament passages suggest going beyond the tithe.
 - 1. Acts 2:44-45
 - 2. Acts 4:32-35
 - 3. Mark 12:41-44
- 3. Another part of our Christian Stewardship is the giving of freewill offerings from a loving heart.** (Leviticus 1:2-3; a Chronicles 29:9; 2 Corinthians 9:7)
- a. They are gifts which came from God in the first place. (1 Chr. 29:9)
 - b. They are an expression of our love, devotion, dedication and faith. (1Chr. 29:16-17)
 - c. They supplement the work of God's Church. (1Chr. 29:18-19)
- 4. A Major Part of our Christian Stewardship is the wise and faithful use of the other 90%.**
- a. Making sure that we take care of our families. (1Timothy 5:8)
 - b. Making sure that we give to charity and those in need. (Proverbs 19:17)
 - c. Make sure that we save, invest wisely, and prepare for retirement. (Matt. 25:14-30)
 - d. Making sure that we do not waste God's resources. (Proverbs 18:9; 21:20)
 - e. Making sure that we are generous. (We can give our way to prosperity. Proverbs 3:9-10; 11:24-25; Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; and 2 Cor. 9:6)
- 5. The heart of our Christian Stewardship is having the right motivation for giving.**
- a. Giving in the light of tax advantages.
 - b. Giving in light of the church's survival.
 - c. Giving in the light of God's possible chastening.
 - d. Giving in the light of God's possible blessing.
 - e. Giving in the light of God's glory.