

“treasures in heaven”

Stewardship

Matthew 6:19-21

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19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“treasures in heaven”

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him.

Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions.

They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

“treasures in heaven”

Stewardship:

“The responsibility to manage resources God has placed in our care.”

“treasures in heaven”

Genesis 1:28-30

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

29 Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. **30** And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground — everything that has the breath of life in it — I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

“treasures in heaven”

Psalm 24:1-2

1 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; **2** for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters

A Holy Trusteeship

“Christians bear a particular responsibility in stewardship...

we belong to Christ, and all that is ours is at Christ’s disposal.”

A Holy Trusteeship

Matthew 6:19-21

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A Holy Trusteeship

Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

For the Glory of God

“Christians are sometimes confused or uncertain about the use money and material priorities. Some believe that material possessions indicate God’s favor. Others trust in material possessions to sustain them in times of need or poverty. A mature Christian understands that material possessions or money cannot buy what is most important-the priceless treasure of salvation through Jesus Christ.”

For the Glory of God

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

For the Glory of God

Philippians 4:11-13

11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

12 I know what it is to be in need,
and I know what it is to have
plenty. I have learned the secret
of being content in any and every
situation, whether well fed or
hungry, whether living in plenty
or in want. **13** I can do
everything through him who
gives me strength.

For the Glory of God

Luke 12:13-21

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” **14** Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” **15** Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

16 And he told them this parable:
“The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. **17** He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ **18**
“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and all my goods.’

19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." ' **20** "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' **21** "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

For the Glory of God

“A Christian’s stewardship is motivated not by obligation but by a joyful sense of privilege. Those who have received much now have the joy of sharing with others. We give cheerfully, generously, and regularly in obedience to Christ’s commands and to other biblical teachings. We honor and worship Christ by giving in His Spirit.”

The Tithe

“One issue of controversy among Christians has been the tithe. In the Old Testament God commanded the people of God to give a minimum of 10 percent as an offering.”

The Tithe

Genesis 14:18-20

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, **19** and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. **20** And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

The Tithe

Leviticus 27:30-32

30 “ ‘A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. **31** If a man redeems any of his tithe, he must add a fifth of the value to it. **32** The entire tithe of the herd and flock — every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd’s rod — will be holy to the LORD.

The Tithe

Malachi 3:8-10

8 “Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings. **9** You are under a curse — the whole nation of you — because you are robbing me.

10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not be able to hold it all in. You will be amazed and you will wonder, and you will say, ‘Why has this happened to me?’”

The Tithe

“Some people argue that Christians, not under the law, are now free from the responsibility of the tithe.”

The Tithe

Mark 10:21-22

21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” **22** At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

The Tithe

Luke 19:8-10

8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

The Tithe

“Responsible believers understand, however, that Christians bear no less responsibility for giving than God commanded of His people in the Old Testament.

Those who have been transformed by Christ are called to an even higher level of giving that is motivated by more than law and mere obligation...

Christians must seek to give generously to the local church and to Gospel causes..."

Applications

- **We are commanded to give**
- **The tithe is a beginning of the amount we should give, not the end**
- **Jesus calls us to a higher standard**
- **Give with joy**

Final Thoughts

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

7 Each man should give what he have decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to make all grace abound in you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Final Thoughts

Mark 10:23-31

23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” **24** The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! **25** It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” **27** Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” **28** Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”

29 “ I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied,
“no one who has left home or brothers
or sisters or mother or father or
children or fields for me and the gospel
30 will fail to receive a hundred times
as much in this present age: homes,
brothers, sisters, mothers, children and
fields — and with them, persecutions
— and in the age to come, eternal life.
31 But many who are first will be last,
and the last first.”