

The Christian And His Money

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Part 1 – Money Is Important

I. Wealth In Two Levels (Heb. 11:24–26)

- A. Material: temporary
- B. Spiritual: eternal (compare Matt. 5:11–12)

II. Material Level (Good Or Evil?)

- A. Seven good things the Lamb is worthy to receive (Rev. 5:12)
 - 1. Riches is second
 - 2. These things can be misused
- B. *All* silver (money) and gold belong to God: primarily to be used for work of God (Hag. 2:8–9)
- C. Bible says a great deal about money (2 Cor. 8 & 9 [compare 1 Cor. 13])
- D. Christ's ministers obligated to teach about money (Acts 20:20, 26–27)
- E. Jesus had a lot to say about money
 - 1. Cannot serve God and Mammon (Matt. 6:24)
Not *whether* we will serve but *whom* we will serve
 - 2. God tests handling of money before He commits spiritual riches to us (Luke 16:9–11)
 - 3. Giving is proof of our sincerity (2 Cor. 8:8, 24)
 - 4. Our heart follows our treasure: commitment that leaves out our money is incomplete (Matt. 6:21)

Part 2 – Principles Of Right Giving

I. Five Principles Of Right Giving

- A. By grace through faith: *not* by the law (John 1:17)
 - 1. Grace is free: cannot be earned (Eph. 2:8)
 - 2. “Grace” appears seven times (2 Cor. 8)
 - 3. Law works from without through commandments, but grace from within through the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:3)
 - 4. The Holy Spirit is generous (Ps. 51:12)
- B. First give ourselves, then our gifts
 - 1. Example: Macedonians (2 Cor. 8:5)
 - 2. Giving ourselves leads to revelation of God's will (Rom. 12:1–2)
- C. Grace provides abundance
 - 1. Five *all's* and two *abound's*: but for *every* good work (2 Cor. 9:8)
 - 2. We receive greater blessing by giving than by receiving (Acts 20:35)
- D. Giving is sowing
 - 1. Sow where we will reap the greatest harvest—prayerfully, not impulsively—we reap in proportion to what we sow (2 Cor. 9:6)
 - 2. There is an interval between sowing and reaping
- E. Giving is part of worship
 - 1. Everyone must come before God with his offering (Ex. 23:15)

2. Coming with an offering gives God the glory due to Him. God does *not* need our tips! (Ps. 96:8)

Part 3 – Tithing

I. Question Of Priorities

- A. Faith gives first, then receives back: the proportion of our giving determines the proportion of our receiving (Luke 6:38)
- B. Put God's kingdom first, then God supplies material needs (Matt. 6:33)
- C. We honor God by giving Him the first share and God prospers us in return: but stinginess dishonors God (Prov. 3:9–10)

II. Tithing Is Giving The First Tenth Back To God

- A. By tithes Abraham acknowledged Melchizedek as his priest (Gen. 14:18–20 [compare Rom. 4:11–12])
- B. Jacob's commitment: by tithe he acknowledged the Lord as his God (Gen. 28:20–22)
- C. Jacob's testimony: from a staff to two companies (Gen. 32:10b [compare Gen. 33:11])
- D. Under the law, the tithe was only the foundation: then there were six other forms of giving (Deut. 12:6)
- E. In the New Testament we acknowledge Jesus as our High Priest by our tithes (Heb. 7:8)
- F. We have a better covenant with better promises. Should we give less? (Heb. 8:6)
- G. God keeps a record: stinginess brings His curse, liberality releases His blessing (Mal. 3:8–10)

The storehouse is the place you get food to eat and seed to sow.