

PURPOSE IN LIFE

Wise Investments

Matt. 6:19-21

God has a definite purpose in mind for us and He is working in our lives to accomplish that purpose. **Romans 8:28**, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.” Simply stated we are to glorify God in our bodies and our spirits in everything we do.

In order to do this we must study His word and learn what He requires of us, then strive to conduct our lives the way He has ordered. We learn that we are to surrender our lives to Him and be His servants. As we grow in this, we realize that we are not merely vassals at His disposal, but we are His sons, and He makes us as stewards of His property here on earth.

A steward is a servant who is entrusted with the management of property, finances, or other affairs not his own. The things he manages all belong to His Master.

A good steward fears his master. A good steward seeks to know his master’s will. A good steward is fully yielded to his Master’s control and remembers that he will have to give an exact accounting to the Master.

We are considering our stewardship of material possessions and money. Money is an important item in our lives. We have to have at least some of it in order to get by in this world. It can also be a very deceitful item.

We must develop a right attitude toward money. Mine is this, “Money is a necessary nuisance we have to put up with until we go to Heaven. It is necessary; therefore, we must manage it carefully.” Money is a wonderful servant, but it can become a tyrannical master. You either rule your money or money will rule you. It can easily slip in and become god without us realizing. We then begin to drown ourselves in destruction and perdition, and err from the faith and pierce ourselves through with many sorrows.

When a person is focused on making money, money becomes his god. Therefore, we must understand what God has revealed to us about money and manage it according to His instructions. Remember, money is a test of our faithfulness to God. **Luke 16:10-12**, “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?” In order to be faithful with this least of all riches we must begin where God directs us to begin.

I. WE STOP LAYING UP TREASURES ON EARTH (Matt. 6:19).

A. God entrusts us with some of His money.

- 1. We are not to lay it up for ourselves here on earth.*
- 2. We can save for anticipated expenses.*
- 3. We must not allow it to be our treasure.*

Matthew 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

B. God expects us to lay up treasures in Heaven (Matt. 6:20).

How do we lay up treasures in Heaven? We invest in the work of God which is world evangelization.

II. WE TITHE ON ALL OUR INCREASE.

A. God expects His people to tithe.

This is where proper money management must begin. A tithe is one tenth or ten percent of the increase.

- 1. The tithe belongs to the Lord and is holy unto Him.*

Leviticus 27:30, “And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD.”

- a. The principle of tithing was established before the Law was given.

Genesis 14:17-20, “And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.”

b. The principle of tithing was incorporated into the law.

c. The principle of tithing is not changed in the New Testament.

It is now an obedience of love and a privilege of grace. If I am looking for ways to get out of tithing, I am saying by my actions that money is more important to me than God.

2. *The tithe is not for any personal expenses.*

Malachi 3:8, “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.” If I am using the tithe to pay personal expenses I am stealing from God. That settles the question, Do I tithe on the gross or the net? I do not pay taxes out of my tithe.

It is interesting to note, the government does not trust us to send them their portion. They have our employer take it out of our pay and send it directly to them. However, God does trust us with His portion. We are to take it off the top and give it to Him. To truly tithe we must tithe on our gross income.

B. God allows us to prove Him with the tithe.

Malachi 3:10, “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*”

III. WE GIVE TO MISSIONS (2 Cor. 8:1-9).

If we are to be faithful and wise stewards of what God has entrusted to us, we must make wise investments of those assets. We begin by paying our debt. The tithe is a debt I owe to the Lord. Once I have paid my debt, I can now give a free will offering to the work of is world evangelization.

We are to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Those who cannot physically go to other parts of the world are to help send those who can. One said, “There are three types of people in the church, the goers, the senders and the disobedient.”

The gospel is free; salvation is free. There is absolutely no cost to the lost sinner for salvation. Jesus paid the full price, but there is a cost involved in getting the gospel to the lost sinner. It takes people and money to get the message to the lost. Gospel tracts cost money. Bibles cost money. Sending missionaries costs money. Preaching over radio or television costs money. Traveling to the prospects costs money. There is definitely a cost involved.

This is where God would have us to invest. We are called upon to give in order for the Gospel to be preached, but it involves more than just giving money. God wants us to invest our lives in His work. Regardless of what we do to make money, we are to give our lives to Him so that He might use us to get His message to the lost. Here we come to find the very essence of our purpose in life.

A. First give yourself to the Lord.

2 Corinthians 8:5, “And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but **first gave their own selves to the Lord**, and unto us by the will of God.” Think about it. “Only one life, twill soon be passed. Only what’s done for Christ will last.”

1. *A complete surrender to Jesus Christ is necessary.*

Romans 12:1-2, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

2. *A complete surrender to Jesus Christ involves other people.*

2 Corinthians 8:5, “And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, **and**

unto us by the will of God.” We are not surrendered to Jesus Christ if we refuse to submit to those, He places in authority over us. Some will be bad people; others will be godly people. This is never blind obedience but an attitude of yieldedness to God’s authority. This will bring great blessing to your life.

First give yourself to the Lord. He desires this, and He deserves this. Then invest money in His work.

B. Make a faith-promise for missions.

1. This is not by commandment.

2 Corinthians 8:8, “I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.”

- a. It is a test of sincerity.
- b. It is a way to prove your love to Jesus Christ.

2. This is a planned voluntary offering for missions above the tithe.

2 Corinthians 9:7, “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

- a. A personal choice (“in his heart”)
- b. A willing choice (“not grudgingly”)
- c. A loving choice (“not of necessity”)

3. This is greatly rewarded.

2 Corinthians 9:6, “But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly **shall reap** also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully **shall reap** also bountifully.” **Galatians 6:7**, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” We do not give selfishly just to get something back, but God does always give an increase on what we give to Him. **Luke 6:38**, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” Think about it this way, “The tithe is a debt I owe. The faith-promise is a seed I sow.” (Don Sisk)

- a. God multiplies the seed sown (2 Cor. 9:6, 10).
 - 1) We reap if we sow (Gal. 6:7; Psa. 126:6).
 - 2) We reap what we sow.
 - 3) We reap in proportion to what we sow (2 Cor. 9:6).
 - 4) We reap more than what we sow.
 - 5) We reap after we sow.
- b. God gives contentment (2 Cor. 9:8).

Hebrews 13:5, “*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have*: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

- c. God saves precious souls (Rom. 10:13-15).

We will be called upon to give an account of our stewardship. **Romans 14:12**, “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” God will require a detailed accounting of our management. We certainly want to receive His commendation of “Well done thou good and faithful servant,” when we enter Heaven.