

Giving/Stewardship

Ephesians 5.15-16

Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but **godliness** has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4.7b-8

Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5.15-16

The Bible relates not only the use of our time to our spiritual condition, but also the use of our money. The Bible has a great deal to say about how we handle money. In fact, both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament have many principles on how we are to handle our money. Christians are faced daily with many decisions regarding money. They basically fall into four categories:

- **How We Feel About Money** (1 Timothy 6.6-18)
- **How We Get or Earn Money** (Proverbs 28.19; 14.23)
- **How We Spend Money** (1 Timothy 5.8; 1 John 3.17; Proverbs 30.24; 21.20)
- **How We Give Our Money**

The disciplined use of money is crucial to our growth in Godliness. For one thing, it is a matter of obedience. It is also clearly an indication of spiritual maturity. Growth in Godliness will express itself in a growing understanding of these principles of giving.

1. Giving is investing with God.

Luke 6.38; Matthew 6.19-21, 24; 2 Corinthians 9.6-11

2. Giving is to be sacrificial.

Mark 12:41-44; Hebrews 13.16; Philippians 4.18-19

3. Giving is not a matter of what you have.

Luke 16.10; 2 Corinthians 8.2-4, 8

4. Giving affects spiritual riches.

Luke 16.11-12

5. Giving amounts are personally determined.

Luke 19.1-10; 2 Corinthians 8.9-11

6. Giving is to be in response to need.

Acts 2.43-47; 4.32-5.11; 11.27-30

7. Giving is to demonstrate love and not law.

2 Corinthians 8.8-9, 12; 9.7

8. Giving is to be planned.

1 Corinthians 16.1-2

9. Giving is to be generous.

2 Corinthians 8.2; 9.5-6, 8-10; Philippians 4.10-19

10. It is better to give than to receive.

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Acts 20.35