

4Ws MONEY: GOOD OR EVIL?

DISCOVER THE BEST USE OF MONEY!

MAY 22, 2022

WORSHIP

Let the Praises Ring, Risen Savior, Better is One Day, O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer, Because of Who You Are, More Precious than Silver

WELCOME

What is the best advice you received about investing money?

WORD

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7

⁶ Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

There are many famous quotations about life, but do we know the source? One of the most famously-quoted verses, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” was from Jesus and was quoted by the Apostle Paul in **Acts 20:35**.

Today we will look at giving and why it’s the best use of our money because it honors God, it blesses others, and lastly it reaps rewards. The order is not by accident, instead it is in descending order of priority.

1. GIVING HONORS GOD

In **Psalm 24:1** it says that the earth and all it contains belongs to the Lord. This simply means that God owns all that we need for life. He gives us the privilege of using or having what we need, and as a response we are to use them wisely. As God owns the sky, land, and seas, so does He own all wealth and the ability to produce it (**Deuteronomy 8:18**). The question now is, how do we honor God by giving?

Proverbs 3:9-10 tells us to honor the Lord with our wealth and to give to God the first of all our produce. What does it mean to honor? Honor means “to be heavy, weighty—it has to do with recognizing the worth which another deserves”. While “first produce” means the best, not the last, and most certainly not the leftovers! This verse isn’t saying that we will all become gazillionaires or never have money problems, but it is a promise that God will take care of us and He will honor our faith. In **Malachi 3:5,8-10** God had issues against His people because they were not honoring Him by offering poor sacrifices, by being unfaithful to their spouse, and in the area of giving tithes and offerings. To rob someone is to defraud another, and in this verse it says that the people were robbing God in their tithes and offerings. Tithe means 10% of one’s gain—be it fruit, animals, or money. While offerings were voluntary gifts for specific purposes. In today’s context offerings are what we call “designated giving” such as giving to relief ops, giving to missionaries and the like. The truth is that God does not need food, but simply, the tithe helps ensure there are resources available for God’s work and workers. The Bible says that we should not put the Lord to the test except in this verse! We see the example of tithing even before **Leviticus 27:30** or the giving of the Law to Moses. Such examples are of Melchizedek in **Genesis 14:18-20** and the example of Jacob in **Genesis 28:20-22**. Some may say that when we tithe we are not yet giving because the tithe already belongs to the Lord.

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We in CCF do not want to be legalistic and we believe that offerings or designated giving is over and above the tithe. Others may even say that tithing is just in the Old Testament, but that doesn't seem to be the case because Jesus did not say that tithing can be done away with (**Matthew 23:23**). The bottom line is that giving to the Lord deals with our heart attitude—He wants us to give cheerfully as we desire to honor Him (**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**).

2. GIVING BLESSES OTHERS

It is a blessing to have generous givers from different sectors and line of businesses, but the truth is that giving is a privilege for all of God's people, even for those with humble means (**1 Timothy 6:17-18**). We see this in **2 Corinthians 8:1-5** when the Apostle Paul was raising money from among churches in Macedonia for the poor churches in Jerusalem. The verse shows us that the Macedonian churches were joyful to give generously even from their deep poverty. The reason why they were all able to give despite their humble means is because they first committed themselves to the Lord. They had a relationship with God and this allowed them to be a blessing to others.

3. GIVING REAPS REWARDS

God promises blessings when we give (**Luke 6:38**). God's blessings are not just in what He gives but also in what He prevents or preserves (**Malachi 3:11-12**). Ultimately, God's rewards are still meant to be shared as we learn from the encouragement of the Apostle Paul in **2 Corinthians 9:8**.

Earlier we said that our points today are in descending order of priority. Because for us to be people who give, we need to first experience that God is a God who gives. The beautiful truth about giving is that more than 2,000 years ago, God gave us what we needed most, the offer of forgiveness and redemption through His only Son—Jesus Christ. When God gives, we receive. May you receive the gift of eternal life found in Jesus Christ today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

What is your view of tithing/giving, and how do you practice it?

2. Setting It Right.

How can you bless someone in need this week?

3. Living It Out.

How have you seen God bless you as you bless others through tithing/giving?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people to come to know the graciousness and generosity of God through Jesus. Demonstrate to others God's goodness through your giving from the heart—especially to the poor among us. Invest not only towards the physical needs of others, but towards their spiritual needs. This week, share the gospel to someone you know who needs Jesus.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of newly-elected and incumbent public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop; peace and order be restored, lives spared. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ; refugees be given safe passage into surrounding nations.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7

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