

STEWARDSHIP

- S - Sacrificial/Selfless/Service/Savior/Servant/Sowing seed/Souls/Stewardship
- T - Tithe/Tenth/Treasury/Trust/Time/Talent/Test/Testimony of JC
- E - Eternity/Earnest
- W - Works/Worship/Witness/Widows
- A - Alms/Abundance/Attitude/Acknowledge/Acceptance/All is God's
- R - Robbing God/Riches/Responsibility/Return/Righteousness/Rewards
- D - Donor/Donee/Duty/Deity/Demonstrate/Deference/Don't Delay
- S - Secret/Sharing/Sustaining/Saints/Sincerity/Service/Sacrifice/Salvation
- H - Honor/Holy/Heaven/Haste/Help/Heart
- I - Idolatry/Initial/Image (of God)
- P - Proportionate/Possessions/Priests/Poor

Greatest Gift: There can never be a greater gift than God's offer of His gift to man of God's only son – Jesus Christ - to be crucified on a cross, and to die as sacrifice for every man's sin assuring man's resurrection, righteousness and salvation before God.

Note well that for a Donor's gift to be valid, it must be accepted by the Donee, and this includes God's Gift.

Stewardship

Malachi 3:7-12

- 1) "Return to me and I will return to you, says the Lord Almighty. Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me."
"How do we rob you? In tithes and offerings... Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... 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 - so that you will have no room for it." (Crops, vines, etc.)
- 2) God asks of us the simple things, and He performs miracles - think of Moses, David, Gideon, Elijah, feeding of 5000 from a few loaves and fishes., fishnet: other side of boat, net too full to count. Post-resurrection: 153 fish – total known variety!
- 3) Lev 27-30: Not 10% - but 20% (land's products), 10% (animals)

DT 12:17: Tithe of grain, oil, wine, firstborn animals – plus free-will offerings

NU 18:21: 10% to Levites/ Priests
- 4) The widow's mite.
- 5) Mt. 25: Servants given talents 5, 2, 1, (\$1,000 each) to tend while master away – no return on 1, buried. Salvation/Rewards?
- 6) Ps 101:3-4: "The deeds of faithless men I hate. I will have nothing to do with men of perverse heart or evil".
- 7) The Lord owns all - we only return what is already His. (Moses at Mount Sinai)
Return to God - by giving to church, pastors, those in need, widows, poor, etc.
- 8) Assuming we have the saving foundation of Christ, only that portion of our life's work, goods, monies, gifts, services and time - that cannot be burned up - and is laid up in heaven for God, is credited and recognized in God's granting of rewards to the Saints in Heaven. (I Cor 4)
- 9) Regarding gifts given to the church in order to receive rewards in Heaven or a charitable deduction on one's tax return - God will judge our heart and foundation.
- 10) "Faith without action is dead" – (James 2:17) - if founded in Christ, salvation is sure, but no rewards in Heaven. In man's law, genuine faith can be evidenced only by righteous action.

11) Some "Bottom Lines":

- A) Be certain of our foundation in Christ.
- B) Believe in and trust all to our loving God. We are told to love God more than spouse, children or family!
- C) We are told to store up treasures in Heaven and to return to God what is His – all and whatever we can!
- D) Where our treasure is, our heart will be also. We cannot serve two masters. (Mt. 6) What is your treasure?
- E) We are to give to others, in secret to the extent possible:
 - i) Full or partial labor/service in ministry;
 - ii) All services, labor, time, prayer, goods, monies given to Christ's Church and/or those in need motivated by JC;
 - iii) Christian discipling given to God's children, family – including one's own - and others; and
 - iv) One's own children who have received a sure foundation in Christ;
- F) If our return and giving is solely in the form of monetary tithes, give as much as we are able while still meeting all support necessities for one's own family – and make every effort to give 10% of one's total gross income or product.

NOTE: In essence, we have only that which we give away!

Ultimately, know that all is a matter of our foundation in Christ and the Lord's knowledge of our heart. Remember well that we are to reflect Christ's light and salt, and we are blessed by God when others say evil against us because of Christ.(Mt.5)