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GOD'S MESSAGE TO ME ON STEWARDSHIP

by

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God's Message to Me on Stewardship

I. God is the Maker, Owner and Giver of All Things.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen. 1: 1.

But thou shalt remember Jehovah thy God, for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth. Deut. 8: 18.

The earth is Jehovah's, and the fulness thereof;

The world and they that dwell therein. Ps. 24: 1.

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith Jehovah of hosts. Hag. 2: 8.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning. Jas. 1: 17.

References: Deut. 10: 14; Acts 14: 17; Acts 17: 25; 1 Cor. 4: 7.

II. I Am a Steward and Must Give an Account of All That is Intrusted to Me.

For none of us liveth to himself, and none dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; or whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. Rom. 14: 7, 8.

Each one of us shall give account of himself to God. Rom. 14: 12.

Here, moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. 1 Cor. 4: 2.

Or know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? and ye are not your own; for ye were bought with a price. 1 Cor. 6: 19, 20.

References: Gen. 1: 26; Luke 16: 1, 2; 1 Chron. 29: 12; Matt. 10: 8; Luke 19: 17; 1 Tim. 6: 7, 8; 2 Pet. 1: 3, 4; Rev. 20: 12.

III. This Acknowledgment of My Stewardship Requires the Setting Aside, for the Extension of Christ's Kingdom, of a Definite Portion of My Income, as Indicated in God's Word.

Thou shalt surely tithe all the increase of thy seed, that which cometh forth from the field year by year. Deut. 14: 22.

Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before Jehovah thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles; and they shall not appear before Jehovah empty; every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of Jehovah thy God which he hath given thee. Deut. 16: 16, 17.

Ascribe unto Jehovah the glory due unto his name;

Bring an offering, and come into his courts. Ps. 96: 8.

Render therefore unto Caesar the things

that are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. Matt. 22: 21.

References: Ex. 36: 3; 2 Sam. 24: 24; 2 Cor. 8: 7.

IV. The Tenth is the Minimum of My Gift Suggested by the Scripture and is Sacred to God.

And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, and Jehovah will be my God, then this stone which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee. Gen. 28: 20-22.

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is Jehovah's: it is holy unto Jehovah. . . . And all the tithe of the herd or the flock, whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto Jehovah. Levit. 27: 30-32.

Will a man rob God? Yet ye rob me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Mal. 3: 8.

Bring ye the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith Jehovah 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. Mal. 3: 10.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees,

hypocrites! for ye tithe mint and anise and cummin, and have left undone the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith: but these ye ought to have done, and not to have left the other undone. Matt. 23: 23.

V. After My Tithe Has Been Administered for the Cause of Christ, I Must Recognize the Remainder as No Less a Trust.

For it is as when a man, going into another country, called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his several ability; and he went on his journey. . . . Now after a long time the Lord of those servants cometh, and maketh a reckoning with them. And he that received the five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: lo, I have gained other five talents. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Matt. 25: 14, 15 . . . 19-21.

And he called ten servants of his and gave them ten pounds, and said unto them, Trade ye herewith till I come. Luke 19: 13.

References: Acts 20: 35; 1 Tim. 6: 7, 8.

VI. God's Word Reveals Standards by Which I am to Do My Giving.

1. My giving should be done through my church.—“Bring ye the whole tithe into the storehouse.” Mal. 3: 10.

2. My giving should be cheerful.—“Let each do according as he hath purposed in his heart: not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor. 9: 7.

3. My giving should be liberal.—“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again.” Luke 6: 38.

4. My giving should be sacrificial.—“Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God which hath been given in the churches of Macedonia; how that in much proof of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For according to their power, I bear witness, yea and beyond their power, they gave of their own accord, beseeching us with much entreaty in regard of this grace and the fellowship in the ministering to the saints.” 2 Cor. 8: 1-4.

5. My giving should be proportionate.—“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of Jehovah thy God which he hath given thee.” Deut. 16: 17.

6. My giving should be systematic.—
“Upon the first day of the week let each one of you lay by him in store, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come.” 1 Cor. 16: 2.

VII. God Warns Me Against Selfishness and Disloyalty.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. Matt. 6: 19, 20.

And he said unto them, Take heed, and keep yourselves from all covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. Luke 12: 15.

Sell that which ye have, and give alms; make for yourselves purses which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief draweth near, neither moth destroyeth. Luke 12: 33.

References: Luke 12: 20, 21; 1 Tim. 6: 6-10; 1 Tim. 6: 17-19; James 5: 1-5.

VIII. Rewards Promised Me as a Faithful Steward.

Honor Jehovah with thy substance,
And with the first-fruits of all thine increase:

So shall thy barns be filled with plenty,
And thy vats shall overflow with new wine.

Prov. 3: 9, 10.

Bring ye the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith Jehovah 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. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast its fruit before the time in the field, saith Jehovah of hosts. Mal. 3: 10, 11.

But this I say, He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 2 Cor. 9: 6.

References: Ps. 84: 11; Prov. 19: 17; Matt. 6: 33; Luke 18: 28-30; Acts 20: 35.

IX. The Basis of Joyful Stewardship.

But first they gave their own selves to the Lord, and to us through the will of God. 2 Cor. 8: 5.