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# GOD'S MESSAGE



TO SOUTHERN  
BAPTISTS ON  
STEWARDSHIP

Executive Committee  
Southern Baptist Convention  
Nashville, Tennessee

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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

## God's Message to Southern Baptists on Stewardship

**"Missions must wait upon stewardship. Mission zeal can never go beyond stewardship loyalty. Stewardship is the handmaiden of missions. Mission movements halt because they have not been supported by stewardship teaching and practice. Giving, persistent and perennial giving, must base itself upon stewardship. If the Christian world would produce a generation of givers, the Christian world must first produce a generation of stewards."—Dr. P. E. Burroughs in "Our Lord and Ours."**

Every word Dr. Burroughs says here is absolutely true. Missions will never come into its own until it is supported by a far larger number of loyal stewards. Baptist missionary, educational, and benevolent enterprises are halted, not because Baptists haven't the money with which to support these kingdom agencies, but because so many of them have not consecrated their money to the service of God as faithful stewards should.

However, there is one whose voice upon stewardship is infinitely more vital and authoritative than that of any man. That one is God, and his message is available to every Christian through his Word, the Bible. For the convenience of those loyal Baptists who would like to really know some of the more vital things God has to say concerning the duties, privileges, and responsibilities in stewardship, the following references have been compiled, and sent forth in the hope

and prayer that hundreds of thousands of church members will first read them, and then practice them in the remaining days which God allots to them in his service in the world.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS ON STEWARDSHIP

1. *God Created All Things in the Beginning.*—Gen. 1; 2: 1-3; Ps. 89: 11; 90: 1, 2; 102: 25-28; Isa. 42: 5, 6; John 1: 1-3; Mark 10: 6.
2. *God is the Present Owner of All Things.*—Ex. 9: 29; Levit. 25: 23, 24; Deut. 10: 14; Neh. 9: 6; Ps. 24: 1, 2; Hag. 2: 8; Acts 14: 12-17; 17: 22-28; I Cor. 4: 7.
3. *All the Good Things I Enjoy Are the Gifts of God.*—I Chron. 29: 10-15; Ps. 57: 1-3; Matt. 21: 22; Acts 14: 14-17; Phil. 4: 19.
4. *It Is God Who Gives Me the Power to Get Wealth.*—Gen. 24: 34, 35; 39: 2-6; Levit. 26: 1-12; Deut. 8: 11-20; I Chron. 29: 12; Prov. 8: 14-21; 10: 22; Mal. 3: 10; Luke 12: 13-34.
5. *I Am a Steward and Not the Owner of the Things I Possess.*—Gen. 1: 24-31; Ps. 8: 3-8; Matt. 25: 14-30; Luke 16: 1, 2; 19: 11-26; John 15: 16; Rom. 14: 7, 8; I Cor. 4: 1, 2; 6: 19, 20.
6. *God Expects Me to Acknowledge My Stewardship of Possessions By Sharing My Income With Him.*—Ex. 23: 17; 22-29, 30; Deut. 16: 16, 17; 26: 1, 2; Ps. 96: 8; 116: 16-19; Matt. 22: 21.
7. *God Recognizes the Tithes As the Minimum Acknowledgment of My Stewardship of Possessions.*—Gen. 28: 20-22; Levit. 27: 30-32; Deut. 14: 22-27; Mal. 3: 7-12; Matt. 23: 23; Luke 11: 42; Heb. 7: 1-10.
8. *Giving Less Than My Tithe is Robbing God.*—Lev. 27: 30-33; Mal. 3: 7-12; Luke 11: 42.

9. *I Am to Make Special Offerings to God Over and Above My Tithe.*—Ex. 36: 2-7; I Chron. 16: 29; II Chron. 31: 11, 12; Ezra 7: 11-20; Neh. 10: 34-39; Ps. 96: 8; Matt. 10: 8; Acts 20: 35; II Cor. 9: 6, 7.
10. *After My Tithe Has Been Given I Must Administer the Remainder of My Resources As a Trust From God.*—Job 1: 20-22; Matt. 25: 14-30; Luke 16: 2-12; I Cor. 4: 1, 2; I Tim. 6: 6-10; I Pet. 4: 10.
11. *Giving Is An Essential Part of My Worship.*—Ex. 22: 29, 30; Deut. 16: 16, 17; 26: 1-11; Ps. 96: 8; I Cor. 16: 2.
12. *I Am Commanded to Grow in the Grace of Giving.*—Prov. 11: 24, 25; 22: 9; Mark 4: 24; Luke 6: 38; II Cor. 8: 1-9; 9: 6-8; Gal. 6: 7-10.
13. *My Giving Should Be Regular.*—Ex. 22: 29, 30; 23: 14-17, 19; 34: 18-24; Num. 28; Deut. 16: 16, 17; I Cor. 16: 2.
14. *My Giving Should Be Proportionate to My Ability.*—Lev. 14: 21, 22; Deut. 16: 17; Ezek. 46: 11; Mark 14: 1-8; Luke 12: 33; I Cor. 16: 2; II Cor. 8: 1-5.
15. *My Gifts Should Be Brought to the Lord's House*—Ex. 23: 14-17; Levit. 17: 8, 9; Deut. 16: 16, 17; Ps. 22: 25; 66: 13; 96: 8; 116: 16-19; Mal. 3: 10; Acts 4: 32-35.
16. *My Giving Should Be Liberal.*—Prov. 3: 9, 10; 11: 24, 25; Matt. 10: 8; Luke 6: 38; II Cor. 8: 1-15; 9: 6.
17. *Small Giving Brings Small Rewards.*—Prov. 11: 24; Mal. 3: 7-9; II Cor. 9: 6.
18. *Liberal Giving Brings Liberal Rewards.*—Prov. 3: 9, 10; 11: 25; Luke 6: 38; Acts 20: 35; II Cor. 8: 1-15.
19. *Examples of Sacrificial Giving Are Commended to Me.*—Mark 12: 41-44; 14: 3-11; Acts 4: 32-37; 10: 1-4; II Cor. 8: 1-4.

20. *My Giving Should Be Done Cheerfully.*—Ex. 25: 1, 2; 36: 1-7; I Chron. 29: 1-9; Ezra 1: 5-11; II Cor. 8: 9-15; II Cor. 9: 7.
21. *My Giving Here Builds Treasures For Me in Heaven.*—Matt. 6: 19, 20; 19: 16-22; Mark 10: 17-22; Luke 12: 13-34; Luke 18: 18-30; 1 Tim. 6: 6-19; James 5: 1-5.
22. *My Giving Is Essential in Promoting Christ's Kingdom.*—Matt. 10: 1-15; 19: 16-22; Luke 10: 1-7; Rom. 10: 1-15; I Cor. 9: 1-14; I Tim. 5: 17, 18.
23. *I Must Give For Myself—God Does Not Recognize Proxies.*—Deut. 16: 17; Ezek. 46: 11; Acts 11: 29, 30; Rom. 14: 12; I Cor. 3: 8; 16: 2.
24. *As a Steward I Must Give An Accounting to God.*—Eccles. 12: 14; Matt. 24: 45-51; 25: 14-30; Luke 12: 42-48; 16: 1-13; 19: 11-27; Rom. 14: 12; I Cor. 4: 2; 9: 17.
25. *My Reward in Heaven Will Be Based Upon the Character of My Stewardship on Earth.*—Matt. 6: 19, 20; 19: 16-21; 25: 31-46; Mark 10: 28-31; Luke 12: 33; I Tim. 6: 17-19.
26. *God Warns Me Against Selfishness and Covetousness.*—Ex. 20: 17; Matt. 6: 19, 20; Luke 12: 13-21; 16: 1-13; Acts 20: 33-35; I Cor. 6: 7-11; Ephes. 5: 5; I Tim. 6: 17-19; James 5: 1-6.
27. *My Stewardship Involves, Also, the Right Use of All My Other Resources, Such As Time, Talents, Personality, Etc.*—Matt. 5: 13-16; Mark 9: 42; 14: 3-9; Rom. 12: 1-8; 14: 13-23; I Cor. 8: 13; Eph. 5: 15, 16; Col. 4: 5.
28. *I Am Not My Own, But God's.*—Isa. 64: 8-10; Acts 20: 28; Rom. 14: 8; I Cor. 6: 12-20; 7: 23; I Pet. 1: 13-23; Rev. 5: 8-10.
29. *I Am Obligated to Put the Claims of God's Kingdom Above Everything Else.*—Matt. 6: 19-33; Mark 10: 28-30; Luke 9: 23-25; 57-62; 14: 25-35; Phil. 3: 4-11.

30. *The Basis of My Joy in Stewardship*.—Josh. 14: 6-8; Mark 12: 28-34; Luke 10: 25-37; Rom. 12: 1, 2.
31. *Some Rewards Promised Me As a Faithful Steward*.—Matt. 25: 31-46; Mark 10: 28-30; John 10: 28; I Cor. 9: 13-25; Phil. 3: 4-14; II Tim. 1: 7-12; Rev. 2: 10; 3: 4-6, 19-22; 17: 14.

### **BAPTISTS CAN DO MUCH IF THEY TRY**

If the nearly 4,000,000 white Baptists of the South should catch a vision of their stewardship possibilities and privileges, and come to consecrate their minds, hearts, personalities, time, talents, money, and all other resources to God they would undoubtedly become one of the greatest religious forces in all the world. Fortunately, one can become a faithful, happy individual steward whether anyone else pursues that course or not.

For all who read these Scripture passages we covet the high joy that comes to everyone who has consecrated himself and all his resources to the Lord Jesus Christ and the advancement of his kingdom in the world. Thus, and thus only, can one live the largest and most useful life in this world, and lay up for himself the largest reward in the world to come.