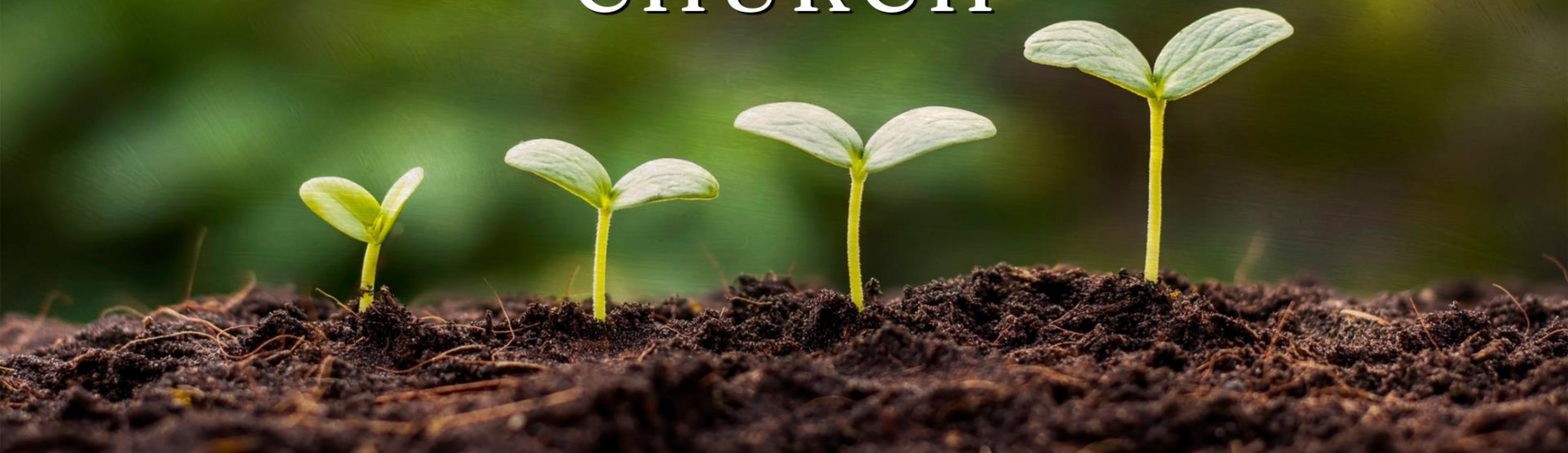


THE
MATURING
CHURCH



The Maturing Church...

Tithes

Ps. 24:1 ; Matt. 6:21

The Maturing Church ... *Tithes*

- *What are KEY Biblical Principles about Money?*
- 1. All wealth is God's. We are merely Stewards.
 - Psalm 24:1;
 - Steward: “to care for with responsibility according to the owner's instructions”
 - Principle? *My money is not mine.*

The Maturing Church ... *Tithes*

- *What are KEY Biblical Principles about Money?*
- **2. Money itself is not evil. It is to be used to Glorify God!**
 - 1 Tim. 6:10; Acts 20:35; Mk. 12:41-44; 2 Co. 9:7
 - Principle? *How I treat money shows the character of my heart.*

The Maturing Church ... *Tithes*

- *What are KEY Biblical Principles about Money?*
- **3. Money is not permanent.** You can't take it with you.
 - Luke 12:15, 16-21; Matt. 6:19-21
 - Principle? *Money is not a reliable source of joy, peace or security for eternity.*

The Maturing Church ... *Tithes*

- *What are KEY Biblical Principles about Money?*
- **4. Money is to be used to bless others. Saving and giving express God's goodness to others.**
 - Prov. 13:11; Eccl. 5:10; Luke 6:38; 2 Co. 9:6; Prov. 11:24-25
 - Principle? *God cares deeply about how we use, save and share our money.*

The Maturing Church ... *Tithes*

- *What are KEY Biblical Principles about Money?*
- **5. Debt is dangerous.** Debt is not *automatically* bad, but we *must* apply Biblical wisdom to it
 - Ps. 37:21; Prov. 22:7; Luke 14:28; Jam. 4: 13-14
 - Principle? *We are warned to pay off debt quickly and be VERY cautious*

The Maturing Church ... *Tithes*

- *What does God say about Tithing?*
- 1. OT, Old Covenant: tithe = Lit. “tenth”
 - Commanded of the Israelites as part of their end of the covenant bargain to secure God’s protection and preservation.
 - *“Security is in obedience to God’s Law”*

The Maturing Church ... *Tithes*

- *What does God say about Tithing?*
- OT, Old Covenant: tithe = Lit. “tenth”
 - 10% First Fruits to the Temple
 - (Lev. 27:30-32; Num. 18:21-30; Deut. 18:3-6)
 - 10% Annual Feasts (Deu. 14:22-27)
 - 10% ev. 3/yrs for poor (Deut. 14:28-29)

The Maturing Church ... *Tithes*

- *What does God say about Tithing?*
- OT, Old Covenant: tithe = Lit. “tenth”
 - Israel REBUKED for NOT tithing/“cheating”
 - Neh. 13:10-13
 - Mal. 3:6-10

The Maturing Church ... *Tithes*

- *What does God say about Tithing?*
- **2. NT, New Covenant:**
 - We are not under the Law bc our righteousness is secured in the life/death/blood of Jesus!
 - *“Security is in repentance and belief in Christ’s completed work on the cross!”*

The Maturing Church ... *Tithes*

- *What does God say about Tithing?*
- **NT, New Covenant:**
 - A HIGHER standard of Giving! Sacrificial, generous and cheerful response to God's great generosity to us! Luke 6:38; 2 Co. 9:6
 - No exact dollar amount or percentage is emphasized: what IS emphasized is the heart of the giver!

The Maturing Church ... *Tithes*

- *What does God say about Tithing?*
- **NT, New Covenant:**
 - **1 Co. 16:2**
 - Some may be asked to give less, some may be asked to give more! But NOONE will be asked to give NOTHING

The Maturing Church ... *Tithes*

- *What do we see here at Cornerstone?*
- **An Upside-down Order**
 - A repeated cycle of non-biblical habits
 - eg, “*We don’t budget*” or “*We can’t save*”
 - eg, Giving out of our leftovers, if at all
 - Result: Anxiety/Unrest/Fear/Debilitation

The Maturing Church ... *Tithes*

- *What do we want to see here at Cornerstone?*
- The Correct Order: *The Four “C’s”*
 - Correct Order: God; Self; World. (10/10/80)
 - Count the Cost: Budget incoming/outgoing
 - Cultivate Generosity: Imitation of the Father!
 - Caution w/debt: >term, <pymnt, aggressive

Prayer FIRST:

- 1. Do I see money as MINE or His?
- 2. Am I handling money in the Correct Order?
- 3. How can I actively trust God's principles re: money and put them into practice?