

Is it really all about the money?

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Your decision of whether to give or not will not make or break God's kingdom work, but it may make or break you.

Contentment versus Temptation

Is a 10% tithe the biblical mandate for giving?

Old Testament

Abraham and Melchizedek (Genesis 14)

Jacob's vow to God (Genesis 28:13-15, 20-22)

Tithing becomes part of the law that would govern Israel (Leviticus 27:30-33)

The people of Israel are told how to give a tithe and how it will be used (Deuteronomy 14:22-29)

God says to put him to the test (Malachi 3:10)

New Testament

Jesus mentions tithing twice to make a point regarding hypocrisy (Matthew 23:23, Luke 18:9-14)

Paul does not speak on tithing

Give according to your means and beyond your means (2 Corinthians 8:3)

Do not give reluctantly or under compulsion, but cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7)

God will provide (2 Corinthians 9:8)

Grace is never given as a Biblical argument for giving less

Deepening our understanding of God's grace toward us makes us more patient, forgiving, kind, gentle, faithful and generous.

A good steward recognizes that all they have belongs to God

*The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,
Psalm 24:1*

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts. Haggai 2:8

*You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth,
that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.
Deuteronomy 8:18*

Isn't tithing legalistic?

It certainly can be (Luke 18:9-14)

It is difficult to biblically argue against tithing

If I give will I get?

The Bible presents a number of financial scenarios for our lives

Great possessions, but no ability to enjoy them (*Ecclesiastes 6:1-2*)

Great possessions and the ability to enjoy them (*Ecclesiastes 5:19*)

Possessions given, but later removed (*Hebrews 10:34*)

A life of poverty (*2 Corinthians 6:10, 8:9*)

A life of wealth (*2 Chronicles 32:29*)

A life in the middle (*Proverbs 30:8*)

Possessions given, taken and then restored (*Job*)

The Bible teaches that the rewards of good stewardship are many, but nowhere does it promise that they will be exclusively or excessively financial. (*2 Corinthians 9:6-15*)

Jesus said "Where our treasure is there our heart will be also." He said "One's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And that "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" *Acts 20:35*

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. Matthew 6:19-20

Application

How is the gospel impacting your finances?

Are you willing to do the work that it takes to become a good steward?

Are you looking for reasons not to give?

Are you holding tightly to and claiming ownership of your resources?

Are you satisfied with giving 10%?

Are you truly living in the knowledge that all we have belongs to God?