

## Sunday School Lesson for the Month of October, 2021

### The Meaning of Stewardship

(2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

#### Sunday, October 3, 2021

A classic question that many people ask is, “what am I going to get out of this?”

The Corinthian Church asked Paul what he could do for them. Paul scolds them in 2 Corinthians 11:8, “I robbed other churches, taking wages off them, to do your service.” The Corinthians had not supported the ministry of the Apostle financially. They majored in what they could get out of Christianity, not what they could put into it.

Paul offers some advice about stewardship. Such knowledge implies more than a casual acquaintance, It connotes intelligent comprehension. Paul here suggests a thorough knowledge of stewardship – what did he want the Corinthians to learn?

#### Sunday, October 10, 2021

##### **I. Christian Stewardship grows out of grace!**

- A. God has appointed you a steward of certain possessions. Stewardship means management. A salesman minds the store while the owner leaves for the warehouse. Just because the boss leaves does not suggest a change in ownership. The employer entrusts the employee with possessions. The worker owns nothing!
- B. How much can one bring to life from his own birth? How much can one take with his dream? Never lose the perspective that life is a gift. We are to be responsible stewards of that gift.

#### Sunday, October 17, 2021

##### **II. Christian Stewardship continues in spite of circumstances!**

- A. The churches of Macedonia had suffered great hurt. Rome had impoverished these people. The churches of Phillippi, Thessalonica, and Berea had been persecuted, yet they trusted God’s Grace and continued to be good stewards of God’s gifts.  
Examine verse 2, “in the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.” (NIV) In hard times, they persevered; they continued to share more than they were humanly able.
- B. God challenges us to give. Remember the story from Mark 12, a widow gave her last coins. Jesus commended her. Contrast that to the sad parable

in Luke 12, where the rich fool had so much and only wanted more. Jesus taught us to give in spite of circumstances.

### **Sunday, October 24, 2021**

#### **III. Christian Stewardship goes beyond a Tithe!**

- A. The Macedonian Christians were not affluent, but they still gave. They NIV translates verse 3, “for I testify that they gave as much as they were able and even beyond their ability.” New Testament language indicates one must choose to give. One has the privilege of deciding for God’s Kingdom.
- B. Some Christians are unfamiliar with tithing which is the practice of giving the first tenth of one’s income back to God. Tithing is nothing new. The Old Testament supports the tithe. In Genesis 14:20, Abram gave a tithe. In Numbers 18:21, Aaron spoke of giving the Levite Priests one-tenth. Deuteronomy 14:22-27, records the festival of the tithe.
- C. Some argue that the tithe only applied during the time when the people were under the law. Yet Jesus gave a much deeper insight into the law and now the light of Christ reveals new insights. To tithe means to take a first step in giving. Today, under grace, our giving should go beyond a tithe. We must remember that God entrusts us with everything. We own nothing! We are only trustees of God’s property. It all belongs to Him. Stewardship goes beyond a simple tithe.

### **Sunday, October 31, 2021**

#### **IV. Christian Stewardship deals with your spiritual life!**

- A. Verse 7 teaches that Stewardship influences one’s joy in Christian Ministry. The Macedonia believers asked for the opportunity to give. Thank God for Christians who understand the spiritual nature of stewardship. Stinginess towards God suggests spiritual trouble. Failure to tithe is not a financial problem – it’s a spiritual problem. If one does not share the resources God has given, something is wrong spiritually.
- B. The NIV translation of verse 5 provides an answer, “And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.” We must commit ourselves first to the Lord. Stewardship begins with commitment to Christ.

Someone once suggested that if Christians totally committed themselves to Jesus Christ, there would be little need for any special appeal for stewardship. Get a man right with God, and his stewardship will be right. Giving is not just a matter of stewardship, it’s a matter of salvation.

**We give because Jesus gave!**