

SESSION 3

PURSUING FINANCIAL FREEDOM

GIVING & SAVING

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GIVING:

In God's economy, the _____ thing to do with your material wealth is to _____ away. PROVERBS 3:9-10; EXODUS 34:26; 1 CORINTHIANS 16:2; EPHESIANS 4:28; 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11; 8:7

Emphases

- PROVERBS 3:9-10; EXODUS 34:26 | first fruits
- 1 CORINTHIANS 16:2 | first day of the week, set aside..
- EPHESIANS 4:28 | give generously to others (Poor!!)
- 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6ff | sow generously/get generously
- 2 CORINTHIANS 8:7 | intentionality + focus = excellence
“But since you excel in everything... see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” (8:7a,c)

Our generosity is an expression of the _____ of our God! LUKE 6:38

Making Choices/Trends

- ↓ **Consumption:** *what we buy.* ECCLESIASTES 5:11
- ↓ **Investing:** *what we save and multiply.* PROVERBS 6:6-8; 30:25 MSG
↑
- ↑ **Kingdom:** *getting eternal treasure.* MATTHEW 19:29

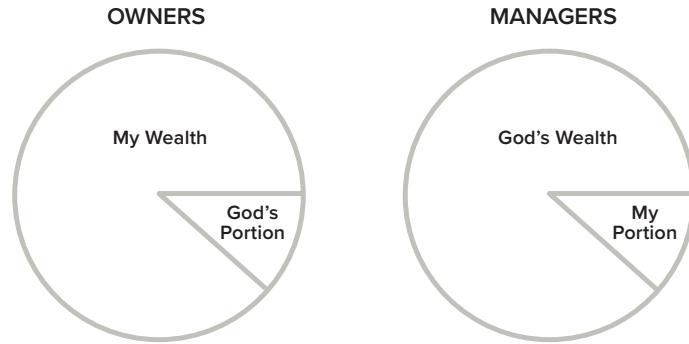
God's generosity is intended to raise our standard of _____, not our standard of _____! 2 CORINTHIANS 9:10

FINISH LINES

- Spending
- Accumulation

We ask, "How much will we give to God?"

We might (better) ask, "How much does God want me/us to keep?"



- God's generosity is meant to be _____ with others in need.

JAMES 2:15-17

- This is the principle of the _____ helping the _____ . 2 CORINTHIANS 8:13-14

- When God doesn't say _____ . JAMES 4:3

Giving how much?

The tithe—a _____ for giving, not the _____ !

- The tithe is _____ % of one's income.
- The Goal: Giving what is _____ to God from your circumstances—ability, life stage, desire. See *Plastic Donuts*, Anderson.

HEBREWS 11:4—Abel... acceptable sacrifice... he still speaks! (Levitical offerings/our lives—ROMANS 12:1 and our offerings—1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19)

ACCEPTABLE GIVING

The Amount Matters

- It _____ in a meaningful way.
 - David: “I will not offer my God gifts that cost me nothing.” 2 SAMUEL 24:22-25
 - The engagement ring
- It is often a _____ transaction.
 - EFT, bank draft, reminder on phone, etc.
- It has impact on my _____ plan.

We Determine the _____.

- We have a _____ to give.
 - There are 2000 verses on giving in the Bible

LUKE 6:38

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

- We have the freedom to choose a _____.
 - 2% rule of giving
 - Of eight kinds of gifts in the Old Testament, four were decided by the giver.

We Give According to Our _____

2 CORINTHIANS 8:12b

The gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

- _____ ability—income from all sources
- _____ ability—savings, investments, inheritances
- _____ ability—family, spiritual legacy, job, health, etc.

The _____ Makes the Gift Count

MATTHEW 5:23-24

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

From *Plastic Donuts*, Jeff Anderson, Multnomah Press, 2017.

Giving to where and what?

- Giving by _____ . ACTS 1:8
 - Jerusalem—our city/local ministry
1 TIMOTHY 5:17-18; 1 CORINTHIANS 9:13-14; GALATIANS 6:6
 - Your local church— _____
– _____
 - Judea—our _____
 - Samaria—our _____
 - Ends of the earth— _____
- Giving by _____ MATTHEW 28:19-20
 - Evangelism, discipleship, church planting, leadership training, Bible translation, community development, compassion.

Discounts to our Giving

- Giving for _____ widow's mite.
LUKE 21:1-3
- _____ —giving to meet expenses. 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7
- Grudgingly not _____. 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7
- Without _____. 1 CORINTHIANS 13:3
- With broken _____. MATTHEW 5:23-24
- With _____. ACTS 5:1-2

Final words...

- Give _____ !
Be open to God's direction. (Charity Navigator, Guidestar, ROI Ministries Top Ten, Ministry Watch, BlessBig.org)
- Always include giving to the _____ !
(God always includes it in His talks about giving!)



WARNING

Only give to organizations displaying the _____ symbol
Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

(unless you personally know of their ministry and leadership).

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SAVING: A BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE

PROVERBS 21:20

Short-term saving (3-5 years):

- _____ fund/ _____ buying reserve
- Minimum need: \$ _____ . Better to have _____ month's living expenses.
- Many people are _____ in debt because they have _____ !

Long-term saving (over 5 years):

- For major purchases/retirement/long-term health care—
a _____ to your family when you start _____ and _____ an income.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:14

Money Mindset in U.S. population

Spender	Saver	Servant
Majority	Minority	Unusual
Present	Future	Eternal
Consumption	Hoarding	Treasure