INTRODUCTION / GOALS / OBJECTIVES
• We know the do’s and don’ts to meet God’s will – BUT what about our disposition, our mental state, IOW, our ATTITUDE?
• What if we do what is right, but we don’t feel like doing it?
  ▪ E.g., We are encouraged to be “cheerful givers” but it is mentally hard to release much-needed income and be happy or cheerful about it; So, is it better to be cheerful about keeping hard-earned money, or upset about giving hard-earned money away to a church?
• God does not punish NT saints for not giving; but there are consequences for not giving. What are they?
  ▪ God cannot bless the way he wants to bless
  ▪ We do ourselves more harm than good by not giving
• Giving to God is not bribing God for blessings; rather, proper giving (Proporionately. Consistently. Willfully. Cheerfully. Sacrificially. Generously) puts us where we need to be w/ God.

TOUGH QUESTIONS
1) If God doesn’t need us or our money, why should we give?
   a) Giving is for our benefit, and we get to see God at work
2) What’s the purpose of Tithes & Offerings?
   Answer: To make us more reliant on Him ........................Deut 14:23
3) Does our giving impact someone’s eternal destiny .................Yes & No
   a) Yes: God uses our gifts to bring His elect to Him – and this is credited to our account (Phil 4:15-17). If we do not give, God credits someone else’s account.
   b) No: If we do not give, we give an account through loss of blessings/rewards (…”his blood will I require at the watchman’s hand” – Ezek 18:20; 33:1-7) but we do not cause someone to go to Hell (for no one has an excuse)............Rom 1:20
4) Does God require us to live sacrificially?.................................Yes
   a) Our reasonable/logical service is to present our bodies as a living sacrifice........................................Rom 12:1
   b) God is well pleased with sacrificial giving (time, effort & resources) ................................................Heb 13:6
5) If the readiness/willingness is there – the amount or percentage% doesn’t matter. Is this true? ..........................Only if you want to reap little!
6) Thoughtfully think through your giving habits
   a) How much should I give?
   b) How often?
   c) Too whom?
   d) What do I need to sacrifice? (possessions, time, effort)

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / BENEFITS
Give God the Responsibility over your Finances
• God will still bless our good behavior in spite of our attitude, but we can only enjoy God’s blessings if we have a good/positive demeanor and not one that is selfish – what’s-in-it-for-me
• What good is it to obey God’s directives if the wicked get richer and Christians are always behind the power curve? (Psalm 73:12)
   ▪ Answer: God takes responsibility for our outcomes. We do not have to worry! (Psalm 73:23-28)
• Therefore - If we do what we know to do from Scripture, and we are hit with financial or any other types of misfortunes, God assumes responsibility. ☯ CHRISTIAN ADVANTAGE ☯

NEXT WEEK: Biblical Investing vs Gambling – What’s the Diff?

ATTITUDE IS THE KEY TO GIVE TO BLESS

TOO MUCH
• God uses a reward-based approach to motivate NT giving (….and very few Christians take full advantage of this)
  ▪ Give & it will be given..................................................Lk 6:38
  ▪ Enriched by God to be more generous......................2 Cor 9:8-11
  ▪ Rich get richer, poor get poorer...............................Mat 25:14-30; Lk 19:15-26
• NT giving/receiving approach must be biblically balanced – there is a good probability for many, but no guarantee for all to be blessed with earthly or material blessings. However, all faithful givers will be blessed eternally (Mt 19:21; Lk 12:33)

CONSIDER A CHURCH EXPANSION PROGRAM
• Are we guaranteed blessings in this life if we give to it?.........No
• Will we be eternally rewarded for tithing or faithfully giving? ......Yes
• What if we misread God’s hand on this venture?
  …Then sell the real estate and go in another direction after assessing any lessons learned.
• What do we get for our time, treasure, and tears spent on this?
  ▪ A larger community reached for Christ
  ▪ Personal and church spiritual growth
  ▪ Unimaginable rewards in glory (even after we are long gone, we stand to continually reap rewards from our earthly endeavors – Phil 4:15-17)
• Stewardship is a matter of trust over someone else’s resources
• God calls us to be His faithful stewards - knowing what to do, how to do it, where to do it, and when to do it – with His guidance
• Our money competes for God’s lordship, so God constantly challenges us on this issue
• Money is the only area that God asks to be tested in (Mal 3:10)
• We can fake commitment until it’s time to make a deposit

Thought for Today
• “The lawyer says he didn’t take it with him being a tither, he sent it on ahead.” – Joel 2:24

Next Week: Biblical Investing vs Gambling - What’s the Diff?

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP FOR TODAY

OUTLINE – BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP FOR TODAY
1) Overview – Biblical Stewardship
2) Money – Making Money is Easy. Keeping it is the Hard Part
3) Debt – The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly
5) Benevolence Giving – Do’s and Don’ts
6) God’s Wisdom on Money
7) God’s Economy
8) Prosperity Preaching – Pros & Cons
9) Attitude is the Key for God to Bless
10) Biblical Investing vs Gambling
11) Retirement and Taxes

10)

ROD ONeil (rod.oneil@twc.com) Page 1 of 1 Posted to: http://rodoneil.com/ss-lessons/