

The Disciple and His Treasure

John Crawford

I. Introduction.

A. Money is an important subject.

B. Where your treasure is there your heart will be. We are not to lay up for ourselves treasures on earth but treasures in heaven. (Matthew 6, Matthew 4:4)

II. God knows our needs.

III. We are to seek first the kingdom—God first—and He will take care of the rest.

A. We are to have balance in regards to our treasures. (Proverbs 6:6)

B. We cannot take our treasures with us to heaven. (Matthew 19:16-22)

C. Many times we have to make things right financially. (Luke 19:9)

IV. Tithing.

A. There are only three verses in the New Testament on tithing. (Matthew 23:23, Luke 18:12, Hebrews 7:5)

B. Tithing is the practice of giving ten percent of our income to the Lord's work.

C. The Old Testament people gave three tithes: ten percent to the feast (Exodus 23:19), a tithe to the poor (Deuteronomy 26:12, 14:28), and a tithe to the Levites (Leviticus 18:21), which is equal to thirty percent.

D. The law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ in the Old Testament and in the New Testament the Lord deals with us as adults. (Galatians 3:24)

1. There is no minimum amount on how much to give and how much not to give.

2. Every part of us belongs to the Lord.

3. You decide between you and the Lord how much to give. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

4. It is a good principle to start with ten percent and then let this develop.

5. Whatever is not of faith is of sin—so we spend and tithe in faith. (Romans)

V. Giving.

A. God's motive for giving is love. (John 3:16)

B. Giving is also for spiritual investment.

1. You shall have treasure in heaven. (Matthew 6:19-20, Luke 16:8)
2. We are just custodians of all that the Lord owns on this earth.
3. God gives us custody of something that does not belong to us, but to God.

C. There is a multiplying principle to giving. (Luke 6:38)

1. This does not mean if you give money, you will get it.
2. This means that we will prosper in our spiritual walk. (Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:3)

VI. Characteristics of money: uncertain, deceitful, fleeting, it can lose its value fast. (1 Timothy 6:18-19, Mark 4:19, Proverbs 23:5, James 5:2-3)

VII. Give to those who have less, your teachers and the poor. (2 Corinthians 4:14, Galatians 6:6)

VIII. You get money from working, buying and selling, and trading. (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, Matthew 25:9, James 4:13, Luke 9:15-20)

IX. Money is important, and it all should be given to glorify the Lord. (Job 1:21)

Application questions

1. What would you tell someone about what it means to tithe from a New Testament perspective?

2. What is the difference between tithing and giving? How should one give?

3. What point stands out to you as a principle of stewardship with your money? How will you put this into practice this week?
