SALVATION IS WONDERFUL

"FOR BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES: IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD: NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST. FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS UNTO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD HATH BEFORE ORDAINED THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM." Ephesians 2:8-10

God's salvation is wonderful. As we learn the scriptures that teach us what we possess in Jesus it fills our minds with wonder and amazement. It is a blessing to simply say, I know that I am saved. You don't think you are, hope you are, and guess that you are you know you are saved. The word know means you have personal knowledge of your salvation.

Personal salvation is like possessing great wealth. Salvation is like owning a rare pearl. In Jesus Christ I am more than a millionaire. I have wealth untold. My riches are immeasurable.

Let's see and understand why salvation is wonderful.

I. SALVATION IS SIMPLE.

The Holy Spirit convicts man of his sinful condition and need of the Saviour. Jesus said the Father would draw men unto Himself. John 6:44 The Spirit of God will reprove man of sin, judgment, and righteousness. John 16:8-10 The word reprove means to convict or convince. The Holy Spirit shows men the truth. He makes man own up to the truth or acknowledge it whether man does anything about it or not. Felix trembled under the conviction of God's Holy Spirit. Acts 24:25

Man must confess his sinfulness. Jesus taught this truth to those who trusted in themselves. The Publican said, "...GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER," Luke 18:13 The Lord demands that man confess sin before He will forgive and cleanse of sin. I John 1:9

The Lord cleanses of sin and saves the soul. Redemption or salvation is to receive the forgiveness of sins. Eph. 1:7 The Lord cleanses of sin as we repent of sin and confess our sins to Him. I John 1:9 Only the Lord has the power to forgive man of sins. This was demonstrated in Matthew 9:5. 11. SALVATION IS FREE.

We are not saved by doing good works. Paul said, "NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST." Eph. 2:9 Paul wrote to Titus, "NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WE HAVE DONE, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY HE SAVED US." Titus 3:5 No man is justified by the deeds of the law. Rom. 3:20,28 Baptism etc., cannot save the soul. God doesn't need man's help. The Lord does the saving. You must ask Him to save you.

Charles Swilling

Salvation is free. We are saved by grace thru faith. It is the gift of God that you must receive by repenting of your sins and receiving Jesus as your personal Saviour. Eph. 2:8,9. We are saved according to God's mercy. Tit. 3:5. Salvation is freely offered to everyone. "AND THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY, COME AND LET HIM THAT HEARETH SAY, COME, AND LET HIM THAT IS AT HERT COME. AND WHOSOEVER WILL, LET HIM TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY." Rev. 22:17

III. SALVATION IS ALL INCLUDING.

Jesus gave his life for

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all, "WHO GAVE HIMSELF A RANSOM FOR ALL, TO BE TESTIFIED IN DUE TIME." I Tim. 2:6 Jesus is the propitiation or covering price for all sins. "AND HE IS THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS: AND NOT FOR OURS ONLY, BUT ALSO FOR THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD." I John 2:2

God wants all men to be saved. "WHO WILL HAVE ALL MEN TO BE SAVED, AND TO COME UNTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH," I Tim. 2:4 Paul wrote, "FOR WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED." Rom. 10:13 God's expressed will is for all men to be saved.

The Lord is not willing for any to perish. Peter wrote, "...NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, BUT THAT ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE." II Pet. 3:9 God doesn't want any to perish, if a person perishes, he does so in spite of everything God has done to prevent him from perishing.

IV. SALVATION IS BY ONLY ONE WAY.

Salvation is only in Jesus Christ, "NEITHER IS THERE SALVATION IN ANY OTHER: FOR THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN, WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED." Acts 4:12 In Acts 10:43 This truth is stated. "TO HIM GIVE ALL THE PROPHETS WITNESS, THAT THROUGH HIS NAME WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHALL RECEIVE REMISSION OF SINS." Jesus is the way, truth and the life. John 14:6 He that believes in Jesus has life. "HE THAT BELIEVETH ON THE SON HATH EVERLASTING LIFE: AND HE THAT BELIEVETH NOT THE SON SHALL NOT SEE LIFE; BUT THE WRATH OF GOD ABIDETH ON HIM." John 3:36 Jesus came to give life and give it more abundantly. John 10:10. Jesus is man's only mediator. "FOR THERE IS ONE GOD, AND ONE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MEN, THE MAN CHRIST JESUS." I Tim. 2:5 Jesus is qualified to represent God to man and man to God. He is our go-between or intercessor. WHEREFORE HE IS ABLE ALSO TO SAVE THEM TO THE UTTERMOST THAT COME UNTO GOD BY HIM, SEEING HE EVER LIVETH TO MAKE INTERCESSION FOR THEM." Hebs. 7:25.

V. SALVATION IS INSTANT.

You are saved the moment or instant you repent of sins. Jesus began His public ministry with the message, "REPENT: FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND." Matt. 3:2 Jesus also said, "I TELL YOU NOW: BUT, EXCEPT YE REPENT, YE SHALL ALL LIKewise PERISH." Luke 13:3 At the moment you repent, you have the promise that you will not perish.

You are saved the instant you believe in Jesus as your Savior. The Jailor was told to believe on the Lord Jesus and he would be saved. Acts 16:31 Paul wrote, "THEREFORE BEING JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD, THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST." ROM. 5:1 The believer is no longer condemned. JN 3:18 We are now the sons of God. Paul wrote, "FOR YE ARE ALL THE CHILDREN OF GOD BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS." Gal. 3:26 John writes these beautiful words, "BELIEVED, NOW ARE WE THE SONS OF GOD, AND IT DOETH NOT YET APPEAR WHAT WE SHALL BE: BUT WE KNOW THAT, WHEN HE SHALL APPEAR, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM: FOR WE SHALL SEE HIM AS HE IS," I John 3:2 We are now sons of the most holy and high God.

VI. SALVATION IS EVERLASTING.

The one who believes in Jesus has everlasting life. "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE." JN 3:16 The word everlasting means endless duration. It is life without end.

The believer shall never die. Jesus said, "I AM THE RESURRECTION, AND THE LIFE: HE THAT BELIEVETH IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE: AND WHOSOEVER LIVETH AND BELIEVETH IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE, BELIEVETH THOU THIS?" John 11:25,27 To be absent from the body or die physically is simply to go to be with the Lord Jesus. II Cor. 5:8

We are saved forever. The prayer of the lost sinner is Lord save me.

The praise of the redeemed is I am saved. This is a completed transaction. You are saved in all or not at all. Jesus said, "I AM THE LIVING BREAD WHICH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN: IF ANY MAN EAT OF THIS BREAD, HE SHALL LIVE FOR EVER." John 6:51

VII. SALVATION IS WONDERFUL.

We have peace with God. "THEREFORE BEING JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST." Rom. 5:1 We are no longer enemies of God. We can enjoy the wonderful peace of God. John 16:33 Paul also wrote, "AND LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE IN YOUR HEARTS, TO THE WHICH YE ARE CALLED IN ONE BODY, AND BE YE THANKFUL." Col. 3:15 We have the forgiveness of sins. "IN WHOM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE." Eph. 1:7

We have a home reserved in heaven. "TO AN INHERITANCE INHIBITABLE, AND UNDEFILED, AND THAT FADETH NOT AWAY, RESERVED IN HEAVEN FOR YOU." I Pet. 1:4 Also read JN 14:1-3.

We have a new life in Christ. "THEREFORE IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATURE: OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY; AND BEHOLD, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW." II Cor. 5:17 Read what Jesus said in John 10:10.

We have light and love. "WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE, BECAUSE WE LOVE THE BRETHREN, HE THAT LOVETH NOT HIS BROTHER ABIDETH IN DEATH." I John 3:14. Read I Thess. 5:5.

We have a divine nature. "WHEREBY ARE GIVEN UNTO US EXCEEDING GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES: THAT BY THESE YE MIGHT BE PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE, HAVING ESCAPED THE CORRUPTION THAT IS IN THE WORLD THROUGH LUST." II Pet. 1:4 We have a stedfast and
sure hope. "WHICH HOPE WE
HAVE AS AN ANCHOR OF THE SOUL,
BOTH SURE AND STEDFAST, AND
WHICH ENTERETH INTO THAT WITH-
IN THE VAIL;" Hebs. 6:19.
It is truly wonderful to
know and realize we are saved
by the grace of our wonderful
God. If you aren't saved why
not repent of your sins and
trust the Lord right now?

LOVING,
WORSHIPPING,
AND SERVING
JESUS

D.B. Wright

TEXT: Psalm 95; I John 4:19; John 9:38; John 14:15

INTRODUCTION:
A. It all begins in the Heart... with a
right HEART-TRANSFORMATION!... with a
right HEART RELATIONSHIP!... with a right
HEART-FELLOWSHIP!
B. If it isn't in their heart, you can't
do it.
C. This, Jesus Declares! Matt. 12:35;
Matt. 12:33.
D. LOVE, WORSHIP AND SERVICE are the result
of A WORK OF GOD IN THE "HEART"! This
is called REGENERATION, RESTORATION!
CREATION, TRANSFORMATION!
E. Remember how David prayed? Psalm 51:10;
Psalm 51:12-13
F. IT IS A FACT... Love, Worship and Service
ARE "INBORN," NOT DRAFTED!
1. We love the Lord because HE PUT HIS
LOVE IN OUR HEART Rom.5:5; 2 Cor.5:14
2. We worship the Lord because WE HAVE
BEEN GIVEN A RIGHT SPIRIT!
3. We serve the Lord because of that
INBORN CONTRAINING LOVE!
G. Some basic reasons the saved LOVE, WOR-
SHIP AND SERVE THE LORD!

I. WE LOVE, WORSHIP AND SERVE JESUS BECAUSE
OF THE "LIFE" HE GAVE
A. John 10:11
B. John 10:18
C. Paul's personal application Gal.2:20
D. John's application Rev. 1:5b-6

II. WE LOVE, WORSHIP AND SERVE THE LORD BE-
CAUSE OF THE "LIFE" HE IMPARTS TO US IN US
A. Gal. 2:20
B. John 10:28
C. I John 5:11-13
D. John 10:10
E. THIS LIFE IS THE ONLY THING WHICH WILL
ENDURE, WITHSTAND AND TRANSCEND THIS
LIFE! II Cor. 4:16

III. WE LOVE, WORSHIP AND SERVE JESUS BECAUSE
OF THE "LORD" HE LIFTS!
A. The Bible compares the "guilt of sins"

IV. WE LOVE, WORSHIP AND SERVE THE LORD BE-
CAUSE OF THE "LIGHT" HE SHEDS!
A. All who are without Christ are living
in the "POWER OF DARKNESS." Col.1:13
B. Jesus says that the lost LOVE DARKNESS
RATHER THAN LIGHT! John 3:19
C. GOD HATH SHINED INTO OUR HEARTS!
1. II Cor. 4:6
2. His word is a light. Psalm 119:130
3. His people are lights! Matthew 5:14
4. HIS SON IS THE LIGHT THAT LIGHTETH
EVERY MAN!
   a. John 12:8
   b. John 1:9
D. He not only gives us LIGHT to lead us
to the way of salvation; but HE IS THE
LIGHT IN A SIN DARKENED WORLD!
1. Under persecution: Stephen; Paul and
Silas; John
2. In the sick room
3. At the graveside: John 11:25-26
4. John 16:33
5. John 14:3

V. WE LOVE, WORSHIP AND SERVE JESUS BECAUSE
OF THE "LEADERSHIP" HE PROVIDES!
A. He goes BEFORE... HE KNOWS THE WAY!
   John 10:4
B. He leads IN PATHS OF RIGHT! Psalm 23:4
C. He leads in fields of "PLENTY!"
   Psalm 23:2; John 4:10; Rev. 22:17
D. He leads "THROUGH" the dark "VALLEY OF
   THE SHADOW."
   1. He never leaves His Child alone in
darkness! Hebs. 13:5
   2. He is ALWAYS THERE WITH "ROD" AND
      "STAFF"
      a. Rod to correct!
      b. Staff to protect!

VI. WE LOVE, WORSHIP AND SERVE THE LORD FOR
   THE "LORD" HE IMPARTS!
A. He loved first!
   1. I John 4:19
   2. While we are GUILTY SINNERS!
      Romans 5:8
   3. Gal 2:20
B. HE NEVER QUILTS LOVING! John 13:1
C. He IMPARTS this same love to the
   BELIEVER!
GOING WITH WHAT YOU GOT

A study of Joshua, Chapters 15 through 17, reveals that this section deals with the division of the land by the tribes. They were allotted a section of land as theirs and were instructed to go in and claim their possessions and drive out the enemies. It would seem, at first glance, that this material has no significant and profitable instructions for us, however; according to II Tim. 3:16-17, "All scripture is profitable for us," therefore; we must conclude that there's something in this section of scripture that will help us if we search it out. After studying this passage, I've found some valuable principles set forth that we need to get ahold of, as Christians.

One of the truths that is evidenced here that we need to realize is that what you do affects others! One tribe failure to drive out the enemy caused others to do the same. The New Testament teaching of this principle is Romans 14:7, which states, "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." Learn this principle if you really desire to have the approval of God on your life and labours. Someone is looking at the example of each of us. We're either leading them in the right path or dragging them down to the road of despair and defeat. We're either helping or hindering. We're either gathering or scattering abroad. We're either a stepping stone or a stumbling block.

Now, as we focus our attention on Joshua 17:14-18, let us notice two main divisions: I. THE CAUSE OF THE COMPLAINT. II. THE CALL TO PERSONAL CONQUEST. I. THE CAUSE OF THEIR COMPLAINT

This complaint comes from the children of Joseph. Notice specifically Joshua 17:14 and 17. "And the children of Joseph spake unto Joshua, saying, why hast thou given me but one lot and one portion to inherit, seeing I am a great people, forasmuch as the Lord hath blessed me hitherto?....And Joshua spake unto the house of Joseph, even to Ephraim and to Manasseh, saying, thou art a great people, and hast great power: Thou shalt not have one lot only."

Their complaint was that they didn't have enough room. One also detects in their statement that they were a little prideful. They were dissatisfied with their lot in life. The stark reality concerning them was that the enemy was deeply entrenched in the area they already had. One immediately wonders why they needed any more if they couldn't take care of what they already had. Isn't this also true of us today? Are you living to capacity where you are? Are you utilizing what you already have in Christ? If we don't fully utilize what we already have, we will be doomed to tragedy when you get somewhere else. I've seen so many Christians desire the place or lot of someone else when in reality, if they had it they wouldn't know what to do with it. Some preachers even sometimes set back and look on the ministry of someone else and say - "I wish I was there," or "I wish I could be that lucky." The truth of the matter is that luck has nothing to do with it, and if they got what they wanted, they couldn't handle it, because their living in a dream land instead of surrendering what they have to God and allowing God to work through them to accomplish greater things for His Glory. Man's threat to edify self and man will end in utter failure. Lift up the Lord!

II. THE CALL TO PERSONAL CONQUEST.

Joshua calls upon them to do some things which will not only give them what they think they need but also develop in them obedience to the Lord.

Glen Tropp

This is seen in Joshua 17:15 & 18. "And Joshua answered them, If thou be a great people, then get thee up to the wood country and cut down for thyself there in the land the Perizzites and of the giants, if mount Ephraim be too narrow for thee." But the mountain shall be thine For it is a wood, and thou shalt cut it down And the outgoings of it shall be thine: For thou shalt drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots, and though they be strong."

He calls upon them to do something. The trouble with many people is that they just want things to happen without them doing anything. Brother, if you don't use what you've got, how do you expect to advance or get more? Teachers, if you won't use the knowledge that God has already given you - then don't expect Him to give you understanding in the richer gems that are found in the scriptures. If we don't use the talents that He's already given unto us, then why complain when you see Him using others in a mighty way. The reason why we are not blessed more is because we don't use rightly the blessings we already have. As we utilize what He has given us - the inflow will become greater. The greater the obedience - the greater the faith - the fuller and more complete will be our allegiance to our precious Lord.

Go with what you've got and then watch God take it and abundantly bless you and use you to be a blessing to others.
A TRUE FRIEND

Leave me alone with my problems
The things that you say I can't bear.
You may say something that hits home
So pretend that you don't even care.

I know that you say you're a friend of mine,
And I've always thought you to be.
But don't be a friend in my time of need,
My problems belong to just me.

I don't want to know if I've done something wrong
I'll cope with these problems myself.
You're only a friend when I want you to be
So keep your opinions to yourself.

Don't try to help when something is wrong
Just act like though you can't tell.
Don't show concern, just go on along
I can handle it all very well.

What I'm trying to say in essence,
Is when trouble should come your way,
Don't try to be strong and keep hanging on,
Tell a friend you can count on today.

A friend cannot solve all your problems
They can't always say what to do,
But just sharing with someone you know really cares,
Can lighten that burden for you.

Sometimes we feel that we're all alone
In a world where everything's wrong.
But, there's someone to share and someone to care,
And show us we do belong.

A friendship is really a two-way street
It's a sharing of joys and sorrows,
Today they'll help you anyway they can.
But, they may need your help tomorrow.

BY BARBARA TRAYLOR

PRAYER IS VITAL

PRAYER changes us. Luke 18:1
PRAYER calls on the Lord. Matt. 9:37-38
PRAYER calms us. Isa. 26:3
PRAYER comforts us. Matt. 6:9-15
PRAYER claims God's promises. Matt. 7:7-8
PRAYER gives us confidence. I John 5:14,15
PRAYER is confession of our needs. I Jn. 1:9

TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

CONTINUE IN THE LORD

CONTINUE in prayer. Luke 6:12
CONTINUE in the Word. John 8:31
CONTINUE in Christ's love. John 15:9
CONTINUE in doctrine. Acts 2:42
CONTINUE in God's grace. Acts 13:43
CONTINUE in the faith. Acts 14:22
CONTINUE in one accord. Acts 1:14
CONTINUE with the disciples. John 11:54

"THEREFORE, MY BELOVED BRETHREN, BE YE STIFFNEC, UNMOVABLE, ALWAYS ABUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD FOR AS MUCH AS YE KNOW THAT YOUR LABOUR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD." I Cor. 15:58

A NEW OFFER

1A JK Developing a Healthy Self-Image
1B JK How to Win Over Worry
2A JK Getting a Handle on Our Anger
2B JK Gifts From Dad
3A JK What to do When You Feel Guilty
3B JK Satan's Searching Question
4A JK When We Say and Do Not
4B JK Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones
5A JK Envy: The Slippery Slope
5B JK A Genuine Imitation
6A JK Being Burden-Bearers
6B JK The Peril of an Empty House
7A JK Recovering Your Joy
7B JK Christ Is Counting on Us
8A JK When Faith is Threatened
8B JK The Message of the Prophets
9A JK How to Keep from Quitting
9B JK The First Runaway Couple
10A JK Depression Is Not a Fall From Grace
10B JK So Near, and Yet...
11A JK When You Lose a Loved One
11B JK God's Provision for Our Guilt

This SPECIAL SERIES of messages is presented by JAMES A. KIRKLAND. We are thankful for his willingness to allow THE SOUNDING OUT THE WORD MINISTRIES to use them as a part of our ministry. Bro. Kirkland is a capable pastor and teacher of God's Word.
Serving As A Deacon

James Kirkland

In some churches deacons have the idea (and apparently the congregation doesn't know any better) that they are to "watch over the pulpit," which means essentially to control the pastor. There is no such support in Scripture for such an idea.

In extreme cases we have seen instances where individual deacons have thought it their right to rule the church. They have forgotten that they are servants, not masters, of the congregation. (It should be added here, in all fairness, that pastors also have been guilty of trying to be "lords over God's heritage," a grab for power that is strictly forbidden by the word of Christ.1 Pet.5:1-4).

The second clue we have to their ministry is the example in Acts 6:1-7. There they were chosen to serve the needs of widows in the church. Such needs still exist to be served now—-not only widows, but other senior adults, the needy, the poor, people in hospitals and nursing centers, families in the church in times of crisis.

In most churches today, the ministry to all these has unconsciously been left to the pastor, and it's an impossible burden for him to bear alone. In some churches, the pastor is the only minister; this is not the New Testament way at all. Not that he should not be or doesn't want to be involved with his people in this way, but as the church grows he has less and less time to care for a growing number of needs. Deacons should be deeply involved in such ministries so that the pastor can be relieved of them to give his time to prayer and the ministry of the word.

Churches need to understand this and begin instructing their deacons to take some of this load off the pastor, if they are not already doing it.

Finally, in addition to serving with the other five men in this relief ministry, Stephen and Philip were evangelistic preachers. (Acts 6:8-13; 8:5ff). So, every deacon should seek to cultivate the ability to give out the gospel of Christ to the unsaved.

The church followed the apostles' instructions and chose seven men. They laid their hands on the seven as a token of approval, blessing and commendation to the Lord as they served.

The Result (Verse 7)

You would expect this result for three simple reasons:
(1) The apostles were freed from the burden of ministering to the widows. They could now give their time and energies to prayer and the preaching and teaching of the word.
(2) The complaining stopped among the widows, thus removing a problem that could have disrupted the ministry of the church.
(3) The community outside was able to see a caring church in action as they took care of the needs of their people. The world is watching how the Lord's people treat their own.

All of this would contribute to the spread of the gospel and its reception; so, the number of disciples would continue to increase.

In the thirty years of my ministry as pastor-teacher in the churches, of the many deacons, with whom I have served, only three or four have been a hindrance to my ministry and to the progress of the churches. The overwhelmingly majority have been loving, caring, faithful men whose lives have blessed mine and moved the church ministry forward.

What do deacons do? They serve the Lord as they serve a church, and if they serve well, they enlarge its ministry of the word of God, and disciples increase to the glory of God.

(Continued from July)

HONORING THE LORD WITH OUR SUBSTANCE

By CARROLL JONES

TEXT: Proverbs 3:9-10; I Corinthians 16:2

INTRODUCTION:

God has certain Principles of Character and those Principles are used in dealing with man. You could no more change one of God's Principles than you could change God. Giving-to God of our Substance is a Principle with God and that can not be changed. The Tithe is a Principle with God and that can not be changed either. This Principle is found throughout the Bible.

   A. In giving to God of my Substance, I honour Him as the Creator - Owner - and Ruler of the Universe. Psal. 50:10-12
STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

INTRODUCTION: BY PATRICK LAWSON

A. The Bible teaching concerning Stewardship points to God's ownership of all things.
1. Time  Psa. 31:15
2. Faithful stewards use time in proper way.  I Cor. 4:2
3. We'll give an account for use of time.  Luke 16:2

B. Christ used His time as an example for all Christians
2. Christ knew the limit of time.  John 9:4
3. Christ knew the use of time.  Jn 4:34

C. Time is appointed by God to us.  Job 7:1
D. Time moves swiftly.  Job 7:6
E. Time for man is short.  Psa. 89:47
F. Time allotted must be used properly.  Psalm 90:9-12
G. Time must be passed in the fear of God.  I Peter 1:17

I. CHRISTIANS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR PROPER STEWARDSHIP OF TIME MUST KNOW THE TIME. Romans 13:11-14
A. Time to "wake up"  V. 11
B. Time to "cast off"  V. 12
C. Time to "put on"  V. 12
D. Time to "walk"  V. 13
E. Time to "make not"  V. 14

II. CHRISTIANS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR PROPER STEWARDSHIP OF TIME REALIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE TIME. I Cor. 7:23-31
A. Time is not to be taken up with domestic cares.  V. 29
B. Time is not to be taken up with sorrows  V. 30
C. Time is not to be taken up with joys.  V. 30
D. Time is not to be taken up with possessions  V. 30
E. Time is not to be taken up with the world.  V. 31

III. CHRISTIANS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR PROPER STEWARDSHIP OF TIME MUST REDEEM THE TIME. Eph. 5:15-16; Col. 4:5
A. Time is redeemed by "walking carefully"  V. 15
B. Time is redeemed by "living purposefully"  V. 15
C. Time is redeemed by "living worthily"  V. 16
D. Time is redeemed by "walking accurately"  V. 16
E. Time is redeemed by "using opportunities"  V. 16
F. Time must be redeemed because the days are evil.  V. 16

B. In giving to God of my Substance, I am saying that all I have is just a Sacred Trust from the Lord. My Life - Family - Possessions - My Calling from God. I Chron. 29:10-19
C. In refusing to Give to God, I am refusing to be Faithful to my stewardship. I Cor. 2:2

II. GOD'S PRINCIPLE OF GIVING DEMANDS THE SAME AMOUNT FROM EACH PERSON, THEREFORE, ALL GIVE AN EQUAL SHARE.
A. A person gives according to what he has, not what he has not. Deut. 16:17.
C. There is no way one can out give the other, by giving on God's Principle.

III. GOD'S PRINCIPLE OF GIVING SUPPORTS THE GREATEST & MOST IMPORTANT BUSINESS ON EARTH.
A. God could have used any method of financing His Work on Earth, but He chooses to use the Free will Offerings of His people, by this, He would be honored. 1. Tabernacle & Furniture. Ex. 25:2; 36:5-7.
2. The Cost of a King & Rulers. I Sam. 8:7-22
3. Tithes of People for the Levites 4. Temple  I Chr. 29:5-9
5. Church is Supported by Members. I Cor. 9:7-14
B. God has never said that to support a Church was Cheap but God's people are able to do it if they desire to.
C. Did you ever stop to think how much of God's money is spent each month to Preach the Gospel and the Price in DOLLARS it takes to win one person to Christ.

IV. GOD'S PRINCIPLE OF GIVING ALLOWS EACH MEMBER TO SHARE ALIKE IN THE SUCCESS-BLESSINGS AND JOY OF THE CHURCH.
A. No matter how much or how little you give, if you have given by God's Principle, you share equally in the success of the Church.
B. By Giving God's way, no one can rightly say to you that you are not doing your share of Giving.

V. WHEN GOD'S PRINCIPLE OF GIVING IS NOT FOLLOWED, A DECLINE IN WORSHIP WILL FOLLOW, AND THUS A CEASING OF BLESSINGS MAL.3:7-10
A. God accused Israel of Robbing Him. VS 8
B. Have you as an individual member robbed God of tithes and offerings?
1. It is a great sin to rob from God.
2. Your blessing will cease.

CONCLUSION:
God will not bless a church or individuals if they rob Him of Tithes and Offerings. But God promises that if we give, it shall be that we will receive plenty from His hand.
SAVATION IS

I. SALVATION IS A FACT. II Tim. 1:12; Acts 16:31
II. SALVATION IS FORGIVENESS OF SINS. Eph. 1:7
III. SALVATION IS FELLOWSHIP. I John 1:6,7
IV. SALVATION IS FREEDOM. John 8:32,33
V. SALVATION IS HAVING A FUTURE. II Cor. 5:8,9

PRAISE THE LORD

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"Faithfulness in Little Things is A Great Thing in God's Sight"

MUNY R. HARRIS

In I Samuel 30 we have the account of the Amalekites invading Judah and, in the absence of David and his mighty army, burned Ziklag and took captive all of the women and children which included David's two wives. Immediately, upon discovering the fate of the city, David and 600 soldiers began pursuing the Amalekite army. However, as they came to the brook Besor, 200 of David's soldiers weren't strong enough to continue the march to battle. Instead, they were left behind and entrusted with the job of guarding the baggage. A seemingly insignificant task but someone had to do it and they were faithful in doing what they could.

Then, as David returned in victory with the remaining soldiers, he began to divide the spoils of battle. In the eyes of David, every man in his army had contributed equally toward the victory and, much to the disagreement of the 400 who fought, he gave like share to the 200 who had been left behind to guard the baggage.

The Lord doesn't expect the same performance from everybody, but He does want our best. Faithfulness in little things is a great thing in God's sight.

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