

Stewardship Scripture Nuggets

“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

“The fruit of the Spirit is.....generosity” Galatians 5:22

“For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” - Jesus - Matthew 6:19-20

“The faithful will abound with blessings, but the one who is in a hurry to get rich will not go unpunished.” Proverbs 28:20

“The rich rules over the poor and the borrower is the slave of the lender.”
“Those who are generous are blessed for they share their bread with the poor.” “Oppressing the poor in order to enrich oneself, and giving to the rich, will lead only to loss.” Proverbs 22:7, 9, 16

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.” I Timothy 6:10

“All the Israelite men and women whose hearts made them willing to bring anything for the work that the LORD had commanded by Moses to be done, brought it as a freewill offering to the LORD.” Exodus 35:29
“The people are bringing much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do.” So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp: “No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary.” So the people were restrained from bringing; for what they had already brought was more than enough to do all the work.” Exodus 36:6

Stewardship Realities

Do you know.....“only 8% of Christians leave anything from their estate to their church”....or to say it another way, 92 out of 100 Christians neglect to support their church in a time when they are most able.” Churches routinely fail to ask or invite their members to make this gift, which for years will support the mission and ministry of the church, perhaps providing for ministry that is most dear to them. Where there’s a Will there’s a way.

Have you planned your giving via your estate to include your church, perhaps a tithe of your estate, or more as you choose? There are numerous financial instruments with excellent tax advantages: bequests, charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trusts, real estate, insurance.....

The tithe is the very basic element of Christian giving. It is the floor not the ceiling. With it and with a history of it, churches can expand and support mission and ministry, buildings and grounds, and rarely have to hold a stewardship emphasis. Imagine!

Research suggests that Americans really give only about 2% of their income to charity, including their church. Do you know, the highest level of giving was during the depression? It was over 3%.

Giving USA reports that nationwide, charitable giving for “religion” has fallen off dramatically as a share of the whole. Figures for 2015 is 32%. In 1985 it was about 55%, an alarming drop of 23%.

The church is competing with numerous non-profits for the charitable dollar. NPO’s have grown 300% in the last 20 years. Universities, hospitals, para-church groups have become excellent at asking for money, for estate gifts, for regular donations, and they know how to say ‘thank you!’

“Earn all you can; save all you can; give away all you can” was John Wesley’s advice to Methodists, who by living a life of holiness had made gains in financial health, and were in danger of losing their vital faith and trust in God. Christian faith had brought family stability with less spending on alcohol, etc. A better work ethic (Christian) resulted in financial gain.

Imagine....if all Christians everywhere were to observe the tithe.....no stewardship campaigns, the poor would be helped in even greater ways, finance committees would not have to get anxious....just imagine....
Compiled by Rev. David Rash, Stewardship Matters of Virginia