

## Churches Are Just After Your Money

*For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. (1 Timothy 6:10, NLT)*

Churches are just after your money. People say that all the time. And I can understand why.

Christ is Judge. And he gives this solemn warning: *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 7:21)*

However, we need to take a serious look at honoring God with our finances, especially when it comes to giving.

*To better understand what God expects from me and my money, I will. . .*

### 1. Sort out the value that I place on \_\_\_\_\_.

*Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. (Luke 8:3)*

- 1) I won’t be foolish by thinking that religion equals \_\_\_\_\_.

*These people think religion is supposed to make you rich. (1 Timothy 6:5, CEV)*

- 2) I won’t be foolish by overlooking that money means \_\_\_\_\_.

*Tell those who are rich to do good—to be rich in good works. And tell them they should be happy to give and ready to share. (1 Timothy 6:18, ERV)*

### 2. Sort out what Jesus teaches about \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has.” (Luke 12:15, NIRV)*

- 1) Jesus taught the priority of \_\_\_\_\_.

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21)*

- 2) Jesus taught the principle of \_\_\_\_\_.

*No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (Matthew 6:24)*

- 3) Jesus taught the principle of \_\_\_\_\_.

*“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.” (Luke 12:21) (Read verses 16-21.)*

### 3. Sort out what Paul teaches about \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1) Generosity says something important about my \_\_\_\_\_.

*And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. (2 Corinthians 8:1,2)*

- Generosity is more about my heart and less about my \_\_\_\_\_.

- 2) Generosity brings me \_\_\_\_\_.

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. (2 Corinthians 9:6)*

*A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. (Proverbs 11:25)*

- 3) Generosity requires a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

- 4) Generosity brings \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

*This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. (2 Corinthians 9:12)*

Someone has said: *You can’t take it with you, but you can send it ahead in the form of a tithe.* I suspect that’s what Jesus means when he says: *Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal (Matthew 6:20, NLT).* Giving is not the basis of my salvation. That depends on the gift that God gave to me with the blood of Christ. But when I give, needs are met, people are saved, and rewards come my way.

Here’s what the Scriptures say:

*9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. (Proverbs 3:9,10)*

I will honor the Lord this way.