

THE BLESSED LIFE
"Positioning Your Finances for Blessing"
2 Corinthians 9: 6-11
January 14-15, 2012
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"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 3: 16

The biggest obstacle for most followers of Jesus when it comes to practicing the principle of generosity is not greed, but fear.

Laws of Sowing and Reaping:

1. You reap what you sow.
2. You reap later than you sow.
3. You reap MORE than you sow.
4. YOU determine how much more by your level of generosity.

Proverbs 18: 24

Investing in relationships blesses relationships! You don't invest...you don't get blessed.

If we're not courageous, we will let our concerns about the future turn us from cheerful givers into fearful givers.

The courageous farmer who sows seed doesn't lose the seed, he is blessed with a harvest.

Steps We Can Take Toward Financial Blessing:

- I. Make a Plan to Give Generously.

No one drifts toward a plan...you have to make a decision!

One of the most mature practices of a spiritual person: advance decision-making!

- Some of us just must make a decision about our inappropriate spending.
- Some of us need to get radical and cut up some credit cards.
- Some of us need to make a decision about savings, so we have some emergency funds.
- Some of us need to make a decision about tithing.

- II. Make Giving Generously a Priority.

There are two options about how we give:

- Option 1: Some pay all their bills and then give to God from the leftovers.
- Option 2: Some give to God off the top and then trust God as they live on their leftovers.

Proverbs 3: 9

In the Old Testament this was called the principle of firstfruits giving.

- III. Use a percentage to assess generosity.

If I want to obey the Lord I need to be biblically informed about what God desires.

Luke 6: 38

The number 10 is an interesting number to study biblically...it represents a test.

- IV. Expect your generosity to be progressive.

Stepping outside your comfort zone is a necessary step of obedience that God will bless!

The paradox of the Kingdom is this: those who gratefully give with no expectation of blessing are the ones God blesses the most.

Five for the Drive (Questions for Families to Discuss):

1. What does living generously mean to you?
2. What do you fear when it comes to giving?
3. What does Paul mean by looking at our money as "seed"?
4. What is the principle of sowing and reaping found in 2 Corinthians 9?
5. What can we do today to begin to overcome our fear of giving?

Opportunities for You!

Trust and Will Workshop

10-11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 28, Adult Ministry Center

This free one hour seminar, taught by the Financial Planning Ministry, will detail the difference between and the importance of trusts and wills. Schedule an optional follow-up meeting to create your own free will and trust. For more information and registration go to SavannahChristian.com/Events.

Small Group Connection

6:15 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28 or 11 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 29, Adult Ministry Center

Get connected to a small group and find one of the most rewarding ways to strengthen your connection with Christ. Register by Tuesday, Jan. 24 at SavannahChristian.com/Events.

Courageous

7:30 p.m., Friday Jan. 27, Worship Center

Come view the movie "Courageous, Honor Begins at Home" from the creators of "Fireproof." Childcare is not provided. Tickets are free, but required and available at The Source bookstore.

Point University Information Session

6-8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19, Room 211, Adult Ministry Center

Point University (formerly Atlanta Christian College) now has a satellite location at our Henderson Campus. This session will provide information about the Access degree program for adults.

Tax Information

Your 2011 contribution statements will be mailed out on Jan. 27.

Find a complete list of events online at SavannahChristian.com/events.