



# STEWARDSHIP A BRIEF OVERVIEW

## aim

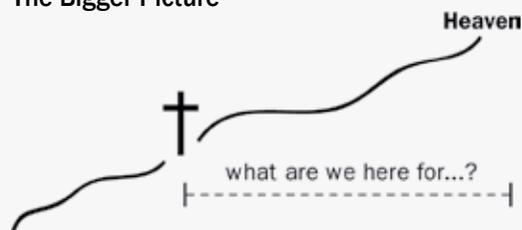
We all have to spend...

Time	Talents	Money
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Many of us do this without seeing the big picture:

- i. God set it up
- ii. We messed it up (ruined our relationship with God).
- iii. God has come to repair broken lives.

### The Bigger Picture



'...to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'  
(Ephesians 2 vs10)

To do the only thing we can do here on earth and not in heaven (apart from sinning):  
To touch lost people. Investing in eternity!

It's all about people (1 Corinthians 16)

God's rescue plan is all about people, and we need his help to focus on the end, 'people', without being caught up in the means 'money'.

As Christians, how can we not want to help people who are otherwise dying unforgiven?

**MAKING IT COUNT...  
...THE CHOICES HE'D WANT US TO MAKE!**

## analysis

### The Money Trap

It's not the money that's the problem it's what it can get you in the place of a relationship with God.

**status power security significance  
control pleasure stuff choice  
influence individuality**

Look at our lives and remember the winner isn't the one with the most toys when they die.

*'For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it'. (1 Timothy 6v7)*

'The anxieties of life and the deceitfulness of riches' are a long slow death. 'Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants'. (Matthew 13v7)

Don't believe the money myth!

### An ECG of our heart's attitude to money:

- i. It blinds us - When we're being greedy it is hard to see. The more we have the more the capacity to be blinded. Our vision of Jesus can be blurred.
- ii. It ensnares us - Are we enslaved to certain things? 'You can't serve both God and money.'  
(Matthew 6v24)
- iii. It trivializes us - Gives us the wrong perspective, a 'now perspective' (Matthew 6vs19-21)

Step back from getting approval from what we own, and put your trust in God.

**WHERE DOES OUR TREASURE  
(OUR DEPOSIT) LAY?**

## attitude

### 'Trying harder' or 'Believing more'

'He lived the life you should have lived...he gave everything away. He's done it for you, and now you have a relationship.'

You don't become more generous by trying harder to be more generous. Rather by believing in the gospel more, and as your vision of Jesus grows, you'll want to do what pleases him.

### Motivation to give

**Not:** 'I give therefore I'm accepted.'

'When you do things to get the attention of God or people you think matter - then God owes you.'

**But rather:** 'I'm accepted... therefore I give.'

The gospel does not say do this now and then one day you'll be accepted into Heaven. It says those who believe are now children of God.

'Its easy to slip from a relationship with God into religion'

'The tithe is not a law that brings us merit in God's eyes. It shows us that we need the grace of Christ to cover our greed, to set us free from self-service. We can see the tithe just like every other law of God, as a means of expressing gratitude.

**'I'm accepted... therefore I give.'**

**NOT TO BE ACCEPTED...  
...BUT BECAUSE YOU'RE ACCEPTED!**

## action

1 Corinthians 16 vs1-3:

### We give TOGETHER

TEAM Together, Everyone Achieves More (v1)

### We give together REGULARLY

Disciplined, regular, committed, giving (v2)

### We give PERSONALLY

Not like a tax - but being part of Gods work

### TO RELEASE PEOPLE TO HELP PEOPLE

Read Leviticus 27:30-33

### Questions

- i. Do you tithe your income?  
Do you give away more than ten percent, or less?
- ii. What would it take to move your giving up one level, giving away a few percent more next year?

### Pray:

For a renewed lifestyle that moves up each year in giving to biblical proportions, from nothing to tithing to beyond.

### Respond:

What is your income level? What is ten percent of the gross? How does that compare to your giving.

### We're on the end of a diving board...

Take the 'dive of faith', whatever that means for you- whether to become a generous Christian, or an even more generous Christian!

**LETS RESPOND IN GRATITUDE  
TO GOD'S LAVISH GRACE  
AND GENEROSITY TOWARDS US.**