

THE CHRISTIAN'S STEWARDSHIP MANUAL

The Christian's Instruction

Part III

Someone has said that the Word of God:

- ▶ Commenced history;
- ▶ Controls history; and shall
- ▶ Consummate history.

Today God has given us His written word – The Bible. This book gives us His directions for Christ-like living. If we follow the direction there is joy. If not, there is sorrow.

Let's decide right now that we are going to follow the directions God has given us as Christians. He gave us instructions concerning:

1. Sacrifice – "I plead with you to present your bodies as living sacrifices." (Romans 12:1-2) We soon discovered that instruction manual begins to make demands on our time, talent and treasure.

If we obey the instructions, there is success. If not, there is failure. Remember — when all else fails read the instructions.

2. Service – The manual tells us "We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for the purpose of good works." (Ephesians 2:8-9) In fact, we discover that our faith is not valid if not accompanied by good works for Christ and in His name. As James 2:20 says, "Faith without works is dead."
3. Stewardship – Jesus taught that we are all stewards of everything we are and everything we possess. The Apostle Paul said, "it is required of stewards that one be found faithful."

Certainly this includes all of the above and much more, but let's look at one major area of stewardship – our possessions.

As we are considering the special program our church is now involved in we need to earnestly consider what God would have us do – what our sacrificial gift should be. To arrive at this amount we need to follow the directions of our guidebook.

We must pray. You will never know what you ought to do without prayer. God already knows! He knows your future and what He has planned for your life. In prayer He will lay that amount on your heart. Time after time a husband and a wife have prayed separately and then when they compared figures they were the same. God had been at work. “Call me and I will answer and show you great and mighty things beyond your imagination.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

We must obey by faith. Frequently when God has revealed a figure whether it be a thousand dollars or a hundred thousand or more the first reaction has been “we can’t do that!” Yet when faith stepped in and prayer continued to commitment, the affirmation was made, “We can and by faith we will.”

A pastor friend of mine tells the following story. His church was in a capital program such as the one we are now in. Every member was urged to prayerfully consider what each one should give. One day a lady approached him, handed him a check for \$5,000. And asked “Is that enough?” The pastor answered, “If it represents you and your love for Christ and His church.”

A few days later she returned asked for her check back and handed him another one for “\$25,000. and again asked, “Is that enough?” The pastor gave the same answer, “If it represents you and your love for Christ and His church.”

A short time later the lady called for an appointment to see the pastor. This time she handed the pastor a check for \$50,000. With tears streaming down her cheeks she said, “God would not let me forget what you said. I have prayed and this represents me and my love for Christ and His church – our church.”

I ask you – God asks you, “Will your commitment represent you, your love for Christ and His church?”

*Lord, I do love You and our church, and I want my gift
to speak to You and to me of the depth of my love.*