

THE TREASURE PRINCIPLE - Part III

Reference: **Matthew 6:19-21**

Pastor Larry Webb

TREASURE PRINCIPLE:

We can't take it with us but we can **send it** on ahead.

Randy Alcorn

There are six parts to this Treasure Principle:

PART ONE... God **owns** every treasure and we are His investment managers.

PART TWO... Our **heart** is where we invest God's treasure.

PART THREE... **Heaven**, and not **earth**, is our actual home.

PART FOUR... We're not supposed to live for the dot, but for the line.

PART FIVE... Giving is the _____ to materialism.

Reference: **Acts 20:35**, "...And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, '**It is more blessed to give than to receive**'"

Reference: **II Corinthians 9:7** "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

This word "cheerful" in the original Greek language is "*hilaros*" from which we get our English word "_____" meaning boisterously gay, noisy and exuberant gaiety.

PART SIX... God blesses us not to just raise our standard of _____ but to raise our standard of _____.

Reference: **Luke 12:48b**, "... For everyone to whom much is **given**, from him much will be **required**..."

Tithing in the Old Testament was a form of ancient taxation. Old Testament Israel was a *theocracy* and in order to support this ancient theocratic government God required from the Jewish people three basic tithes:

- the _____ tithes
References: **Leviticus 27:30-34** and **Numbers 18:21-24**
- the _____ tithes
References: **Deuteronomy 12:10-18** and **14:22-26**
- the _____ tithes
References: **Deuteronomy 14:28, 29**

These were the three basic ancient OT tithes and altogether that required tithing constituted _____ percent of someone's annual income.

But in addition there were at least four particular offerings that a Jewish person was required to give over and above his tithing. That meant that altogether those tithes and offerings were mandatory gifts and amounted to approximately ____ percent or more of someone's annual income.

For an ancient Israelite not to give one of those three tithes or one of these four offerings was an actual crime against that theocratic government and that's the reason the prophet Malachi said:

Reference: **Malachi 3:8-10**

verse eight, *"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In **tithes** and **offerings**.*

verse nine, *You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation*

verse ten, *Bring all the **tithes** into the storehouse,..."*

The New Testament does not teach that we are to give a particular percentage instead, it teaches a principle that allows us to individually determine what percentage of our income we should give and that principle is called **the principle of proportionate giving**.

Definition: The principle of proportionate giving states that the amount of a person's gift is to be _____ to how God has _____ him.

Reference: **I Corinthians 16:1** and **2**,

verse one, *"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:*

verse two, *On the first day of the week (Sun.) let each one of you lay something aside (meaning to set some money aside so you have something to give) storing up (saving money to give) **as he may prosper**, that there may be no collection when I come."*

If though God does bless us in a financial sense then as the amount of someone's income increases, this principle teaches that the percentage and amount of that person's giving should also increase.

PERSONAL GIVING COVENANT

1. I affirm God's full **ownership** of me and everything entrusted to me.
2. I am going to set aside the **first** fruits-ultimately at least ten percent of each wage and gift I receive as belonging exclusively to the Lord.
3. I am asking God to help me learn to periodically give in **sacrificial** amounts to His purposes.
4. Recognizing that I cannot take earthly treasures from this world, I determine **to turn them** into treasures in heaven...for God's glorification and the eternal good of others and myself.
5. I'm going to ask God to teach me how to influence others to understand the present **fulfillment** and future **reward** of the Treasure Principle.

Signed _____

Date _____