

the Royal

MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9

Week 16: Pastor George Clerie

What a great reminder from Pastor George this weekend of how to properly use our time, talent, and treasures. That is precisely the focus of our study this week. Only a few objectives to discuss as a group:

1. What does the Bible mention about the concept of tithing and giving in the Old and New Testaments?
2. How are we as Christians using our time, talent, and treasure biblically, and is there any room for improvements?

Most people do not like to talk about giving of their resources. It is often uncomfortable and usually convicting because in one way or another, we all misuse what we have been given. The hope and heart of the study this week is to examine this topic biblically and see where we can change and grow to honor and glorify God in all aspect of our lives. We pray you have a fruitful and productive discussion.

In Him,

Rock Church Small Group Team

Part 1: Opening/Recap Weekly Challenge/Small Group Sermon Discussion

Opening

- Open in Prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Recap Week 15 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

Recap Week 15 Weekly Challenge

1. Recite **Acts 17:11**.
2. Discuss experiences practicing the **Discipline of Evangelism**.

Small Group Sermon Discussion

1. Discuss the differences between "stewardship" and "ownership" as defined by Pastor George.

Ownership

It's my stuff
I have wants
I earned it
I get to use it for my purposes
It's all about me

Stewardship

It's God's stuff
He has works
He loaned it
He lets me use it for His purposes
It's all about Jesus

2. Discuss struggles and successes in your view of money, whether it be as "stewardship" or "ownership".

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Leviticus 27:30-33 (continued)

Read Leviticus 27:30-33

Pastor George brought us back to the Law this week by dealing with the issue of tithing and giving, and what that looks like biblically. In our devotions this week, we also see the tie between what the tithe looks like according to the "letter of the law", and what giving looks like according to the "spirit of the law". So naturally in our study we will examine the same topic. Consider the following notes in preparation of the study:

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Leviticus 27:30-33

(continued)

Tithing/Giving Notes

- ▶ Tithe means a tenth, or a tenth part.
- ▶ This passage in Leviticus expresses the heart of giving as a form of worship to the Lord. Rather than religious obligation, it was meant to be a joyful expression of God's sovereign provision over them during their exodus from Egypt, and to continue into the land He was giving them.

- ▶ Even before the law of tithing, the idea of giving away a tenth as a form of worship was done when Abraham tithed to Melchizedek in Gen. 28:22.
- ▶ It was even used as a sign of respect rather than law (cf. Neh. 13:5, 12; Mal. 3:7-12).
- ▶ In the New Testament, tithes are mentioned but not mandatory. Jesus mentions the heart behind tithing in Luke 21:1-4, when the poor widow gave more than the rich man, because she gave from all she had, where as the rich man gave from his surplus. The idea isn't the money or amount, the idea is the heart of the issue.
- ▶ Jesus also mentions the heart behind tithes as worship in Matt. 6:1-4, Matt. 23:23, and Luke 18:9-14 (read if desired).

- ▶ Read Leviticus 27:30-33 first, then read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 as a group. This will lead us into our discussion.

Reflect Leviticus 27:30-33

1. Simply discuss what Paul was trying to convey to his readers in 2 Cor. 9:6-15.

- ▶ This is the section of Scripture where Paul mentions, "God loves a cheerful giver." But Paul is descriptive in why this is so. These are the points that should be discussed.

Respond Leviticus 27:30-33

1. Is your tithing/giving a religious obligation, or is it a form of worship? What is the heart behind your giving?

- ▶ Some people have agendas behind their giving. Some do it for great reasons; some do it to expect something in return. Though they may be right, and may get something in return, it is not always the case, nor should it ever be our focus or motive for doing so.

Part 3: Weekly Challenge

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day. These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week. (August 9 – 15)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” **2 Cor. 6:7 (ESV)**
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through www.blueletterbible.com and discover the great resources available for free for your personal gain.
- ▶ **Spiritual Formation Practice:** Each week we will introduce a “spiritual discipline” that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. This week is the **Discipline of Stewardship.**

Put to practice what has been learned! Where are you struggling to be a good steward of the resources that God has blessed you with? This question can be answered by disciplining ourselves to stop spending irresponsibly, but rather start spending biblically. This can also be used to define areas of our “time” and “talent” that we are using irresponsibly. For some of us this may be easier said than done. If this is an area of concern for you, we want to encourage to enroll in the Rock Financial Life Class. This is a 6 week course, with workbook, designed to help you look at money and resources from a biblical perspective. The class starts on August 23rd and goes until October 3rd. To register you can sign on here <http://www.therocksandiego.org/army/#army-classes>, or show up the first night to register.