

Building an Unsinkable Ship, Pt 4 STEWARDS SHIP

Hebrews 11:6-7

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. 7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, **in holy fear** built an ark to save his family.”

Luke 17:26-27

“Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 “It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, **buying and selling**, planting and building.”

A. BEWARE THE SPIRIT OF _____

One of the biggest ways the enemy has hamstrung the Christian church in America is through the _____ .

The spirit of poverty is more than the fear of not _____ ;

it is the fear of not _____ and so leads to not letting go.

It is not that people fear they don't **have** enough, but that they won't **get** enough. So because they fear not getting, they withhold from God and from His church, the Ark of God on earth.

Bottom line, a Christian who is not faithful in regularly giving his tithe is like those in Noah's day who refused to help him build the ark.

George Bernard Shaw once said that if *“You are going to let the fear of poverty govern your life... your reward will be that you will _____, but you will not _____.”*

Did you know that the spirit of poverty causes more Christians to be idolaters and polytheists than any other attitude.

When the fear of not having is combined with the worship of success, then

God becomes replaced with another god – _____.

Mammon is just another way of saying _____.

Greed is a combination of the fear of not getting and the spirit of hoarding.

The spirit of poverty leads to the spirit of _____.

Proverbs 11:25 *“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed...[but people will] “curse the one who hoards, [while praying] God’s blessing on the one who is willing to share or sell.”*

PENIA (Penny yah) was the Greek demonic spirit of deficiency, poverty and need, and the mother of Greed and Lust.

She is the spirit behind _____.

Biblically speaking, there is a _____ on those families whose patriarch or matriarch refuses to tithe to the Lord His portion by faithfully bringing their whole tithe into the storehouse.

Ecclesiastes 5:13 *“I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners...”*

Again, the word worship is synonymous with the word priority. No one here this morning wants to stand up and admit they are an idolater; that is, that they have made something other than God the #1 priority in their lives.

1 John 5:21 echoes the second commandment: ***“Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God’s place in your hearts.”***

That is how a Christian commits _____, and if you withhold from God in terms of your tithe, the sin of idolatry is exactly what you commit.

James W. Frick *“Don't tell me where your priorities are. Show me where you spend your money and I'll tell you what they are.”*

What you do with your _____ should prove that God is the #1 priority in your life.

Two OT Hebrew words for poverty are translated as "want" or "poverty", not to be mistaken with "need" but with wanting OR WANTONNESS.

If one has plenty but is always wanting more, that is the spirit of poverty.

Wanting is the opposite of being _____, and those who cannot stop wanting are ensnared by a spirit of discontentment that can never be satisfied for long.

B. THE SPIRIT OF _____

Billy Graham once said *“We are not cisterns for hoarding. We are channels for sharing.”*

Ecclesiastes 5:13 *“There is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun: riches being hoarded by their owner to his hurt.”*

Arab proverb, *“Many a man has hoarded wealth for the future husbands of their wives”*

Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 *“Be generous: Invest in acts of charity. Charity yields high returns. 2 Don't hoard your goods; spread them around. Be a blessing to others. This could be your last night.”* Surely Jesus used this verse out of the OT when teaching on the parable of the man with a chronic case of triple B complex (build bigger barns).

Proverbs 28:20 tells us that sooner or later, it is inevitable that the **“faithful man [or woman] will be richly blessed...”** but **Proverbs 15:27** warns that the wanton Christian, the one who with holds by holding on to what he has due to his spirit of poverty, will eventually bring **“trouble to his family....”** **Micah 6:10** **“Am I still to forget your ill-gotten treasures, you wicked house, and your cheap gifts of grain which fell short of my requirement, which is accursed?”** [interp. When you offer God anything less than a penny off of every dime, what you offer is a “cheap gift” and what you have left over is “ill gotten treasures”].

Matthew 6:19 Jesus warned *“Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.”* (**burglars and meth sellers next door**).

C. HOW CAN A _____ PEOPLE, HELD CAPTIVE BY A SPIRIT OF POVERTY, _____ AND _____

TO THE LORD?

By _____. Tithing requires _____ and demonstrates it, just as dying for the Lord demonstrates genuine saving faith. Tithing is the one single, biblically endorsed way of testing the faithfulness of God; the only test you can put God to.

When we use the word tithe, what do we mean? Leviticus 27:30 *“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.”*

Numbers 18:29 “You must present as **the** _____ the best and holiest part of **everything** given to you”

Mark 12:41-44 *“Sitting across from the offering box, he was observing how the crowd tossed money in for the collection. Many of the rich were making large contributions. One poor widow came up and put in two small coins—a measly two cents. Jesus called his disciples over and said, “The truth is that this poor widow gave more to the collection than all the others put together. All the others gave what they’ll never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn’t afford—she gave her all.”*

Deuteronomy 16:17 “Each of you must bring a gift _____ to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.”

The word of God tells us plainly how in the last book of the OT, Malachi.

Malachi 3:6-12 “**I the LORD do not change.** So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. 7 Ever since the time of your ancestors you have **turned away** from my decrees and have not kept them. **Return to me, and I will return to you,**” says the LORD Almighty. “But you ask, ‘**How are we to return?**’ 8 “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘**How are we robbing you?**’

“**In tithes and offerings.** 9 You are **under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.** 10 Bring **the whole tithe** into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me in this,**” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. 11 I will **prevent** pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. 12 “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

Glen Beck: two counterintuitive things that we need to do to restore our country: _____ **and** _____

Video clip can be found at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iWcXm4Dxr4>

The four areas to be sacrificial in:

1. **Sacrificial** _____ (sacrificing time, appetites and relationships for the purpose of prayer, study and reevaluation and self-examination)
2. **Sacrificial** _____ (time allotment to be ministered to and to minister to the needs of the church and of others)

3. **Sacrificial** _____ (confessing faith in Christ as Lord at the cost of your liberty, property and life)
4. **Sacrificial** _____ (which includes and makes possible faithfulness in the tithe)

Tithing is the equivalent to the investing of _____ .

The tithe is the Lord's portion, and it is a symbol of the earnestness of our faith.

Tithing is a matter of earnestness: the earnest measuring of our faith in God's faithfulness to provide, prosper, protect and prevent.

Gandhi once said a person's *actions* "*expresses his/her priorities.*" How you respond to the word of God concerning tithing, is more a matter of what you hold as your top priorities than anything else.

The bible says that Noah "became the heir of righteousness." That is, everything that Noah put into that ark: time, labor, money, he got back with multiplied interest. However, everything that those who refused to help build the ark had laid up for themselves – every bit of their investments, they lost in the flood of God's judgment. They lost it all.

"Just as it was in the days of Noah", so it is in these end time days before the return of our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Everybody on that ark was a _____; a steward is a type of custodian. The crew on a ship are called stewards. The ark was a ship of stewards: a stewards ship.