



The Examiners

Examining the Scripture daily to see whether these things were so...Acts 17:11

The Deception of Christian **STEWARDSHIP**

Vol. 5 No. 12 July 2011

Christianity is flooded with concepts that are readily accepted, unexamined and assumed as from God by those who are deceived by false ministers of God. False ministers of God are trading away the truth of God's Word for silver and gold of the world.

One of the greatest unidentified lie of Satan is the marriage of Christianity with materialism that gave birth to its offspring "Christian stewardship" through which many pursue material security, prosperity and comfortable life under the appearance of spirituality.

Some prevalent false teaching about stewardship in churches today that is seldom examined for validity:

- The abundant Christian life is identified by its material prosperity and wellness of body
- Earthly riches are God's gift to Christians
- Money is the key to ministering to people
- Those who are giving much are going to receive much more in return
- God's first concern for our life is material prosperity
- Wealth and health are the first sign of spirituality
- Tithing is giving to God and will result to financial prosperity

Basic schemes of Christian stewardship:

- God owns everything
- God has given you something
- God makes you a steward
- You must give your tithes
- You are accountable before God
- God will give you more if you give
- God will curse you if you don't give

People will give money out of greed than from a pure heart with right motivation and these greedy preachers appeal to the flesh making people think that God's favor can be purchased by their offerings and love gifts. These people will always be disappointed with God when He does not meet their expectations and requests. They have fallen victim to false ministers of God who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

People are willing to give as long as they are going to receive something greater than what they given. This is

the greed motivational factor nicknamed "the seed of faith" (the money you give) in order to receive more.

False concepts involving the way God blesses us:

- Blessings for daily provisions comes through providential miracle (An example of a miracle of providence would involve someone praying for a need to be met, and then God touching someone's heart to meet that need.
- God will manifest the blessing in proportion to the need. They claimed that in God's economy one will discover that the greater the need, the greater the blessing.
- God will take what we have and make into a blessing in proportion to your needs. They claimed that God's blessing is limited to the needs.
- They claimed that the blessings will come to us only if there is obedience in our part.
- To have the blessings of God come upon you, it will always be in obedience and after believing God's Word.
- God can only continue blessing us if we keep remembering the blessings of the past.
- The amount of blessing that you receive is based upon your desire. They justify that we have not because we ask not.
- When you ask according to your faith, you can have everything you need.
- God does not want the blessings taken for granted when you received more than what you ask for. God wants you to be a blessing to someone else with the extra.
- God wants the blessings to be shared and continue to bless others.
- For the Lord's work to be perpetuated there must be the constant surrender of what we have so that He can make it more or bigger.
- When God blesses, truth is authenticated. They claimed that the blessings we received are the validation of God's truth.
- A miracle of God is an opportunity for His power to be manifested. God works miracles through His people to show Himself strong.
- To whom much is given, much is required. Those who have received much are required to give more

Materialistic drive of Christian's stewardship:

- People are motivated to give in order to receive more from God.

- People are giving, tithing or sharing to make the impression that they are not greedy and overly preoccupied with material possessions.
- When someone has surprise material blessings they immediately praise God and they get so busy enjoying their money that they have no time for the Word of God.

The great deception of Christian stewardship is obvious; it is making the people of God love their possession and wealth. They use people instead of loving them and love their wealth more than people.

Those who adhere to prosperity theology blame the devil when they have financial problem and praise God publicly when they received money and start enjoying their newfound wealth that they have no time to pursue intimacy with God. Riches and prosperity could hardly draw anyone closer to God. Basically the money is not the problem but the love of money that keeps people away from attaining an intimate relationship that God wanted for every believer. The old sinful nature in every man always tends seek God intensely for wealth, health and changing circumstances rather than to have intimacy with God.

Requests of materialistic Christians to God:

- To change their circumstances and not their evil desires
- To change the attitude of people around them and not their attitude toward those people
- To give them better possession with the old selfish mental attitude

Biblical pattern of stewardship:

- No one in the biblical account associate ministry with money.
- There is no recorded incident of the Lord Jesus Christ soliciting money from anyone.
- God provided the need of God's work even before anyone could think about it.
- Our spiritual life is more important than our material circumstances.
- The people of God ministered to God with or without money involved.
- The people of God directed the majority of their effort to spiritual advancement rather than their physical comfort and material prosperity.
- God is inviting us to live at a level of fulfillment far beyond material matters.
- God is warning us that our preoccupation with the things of the world can easily destroy our love for Him.
- Money is simply a tool we can use to grow in our relationship with God and serve Him.

People today are equating God's blessing with material happiness and success. The prosperity movement leads the way in bribing people into a relationship with God.

Preoccupation with material things goes far beyond riches because the materialistic minds are interested with the same issues that affect the human life. Christian came out with new wrapping for the same old materialism to hide their preoccupation and priority with money:

- They call covetousness ambition
- They call hoarding industriousness
- They call greediness temperance
- They call selfishness prudence
- They call insecurity insurance
- They call self-reliance confidence

God bestowed us the logistical grace blessing as a proof of His gracious concern for our material needs. We cannot deny the material aspects of our lives or condemn riches as inherent evil because the issue is not poverty or material prosperity but our mental attitude toward money. Prosperity and poverty has nothing to do with spirituality although money can easily drag anyone to carnality. Poverty is no more a virtue than is prosperity. Our spiritual life challenges us to one priority of intimacy with God as spiritual creature still in the materialistic world. We live with two natures where two worlds intersect. Therefore, we must learn to use the material to be spiritual without allowing the material things to possess and control us.

Spiritual maturity is maximum Bible doctrine resident which is accompanied by spiritual and temporal blessings in time. Since the false ministers of God and the reversionist Christians do not have the Bible doctrine in the souls to attain spiritual maturity, they come out with the counterfeit versions.

The temporal blessings of the spiritual mature believers which the reversionistic Christians counterfeit are:

- Material prosperity either received as a gift or acquired
- Professional prosperity: great influence, leadership dynamics, success, promotion, recognition in one's sphere of life
- Authority prosperity: the ability to assume responsibility and authority
- Social prosperity: great friends for all seasons
- Sexual prosperity: restored sexual fulfillment with one's husband or wife even at old age (like Abraham and Sarah)
- Technical prosperity or mental prosperity: the ability to think, concentration increases
- Cultural prosperity: maximum enjoyment of drama, art, literature, music, and history
- Establishment prosperity: enjoyment of freedom, privacy, protection of life and property
- Health prosperity : restored health and wellness of life after undeserved sufferings (like Job)

The false ministers of Christ are commanding people to tithe when it is not giving to God:

- Tithing was bona-fide only in the Old Testament Israel. There is no command for the Church Age believers to pay their tithes. Tithing was for every Israelite, both believers and unbelievers
- The Lord Jesus Christ did not mention or command the Church Age believers to pay their tithes. No epistle ever mentioned tithing as code of conduct for believers in the New Testament.
- Tithing was obligatory taxes. There were three types of tithes in the Old Testament (Num. 18:21, Deut. 14:28-29, Deut. 14:28-29).
- Not paying tithes is not robbing God since we are not in the OT, we are not Israelite and we are not in Israel (Malachi 3:6-12)
- Tithing is not giving to God (Malachi 3:6-12) and anyone who preach it is a liar and out of line from the Scripture.

Grace giving is for the Church Age believers not tithing:

- Grace giving is giving from spiritual mental attitude (2 Cor. 8:1-9, 9:4-8, 13), which is giving from the heart (kardia the right lobe of the soul), motivated by virtue love toward God.
- Grace giving is giving from the free will volition not from compulsion or coercion (8:2).
- Grace giving is giving as a privilege to give in grace, (8:4) and not forced by human emotion or persuasion,
- Grace giving is giving as result of soul spiritual activity (8:5) that is spiritual advancement toward spiritual maturity,
- Grace giving is giving as extension of spiritual perception (8:7) that is the true knowledge of God's Word.
- Grace giving is a test of love rather than obedience to religious law (8:8), Grace giving is the result of grace orientation (8:9).
- Grace giving is giving without any pressure from preachers who are pleading in the name of God for their own spiritual ambition to do great things for God (9:4-5)
- Grace giving is related to blessings that we received from God, not just material things but spiritual perception and genuine knowledge of God (9:6),
- Grace giving comes from motivation of resident Bible doctrine in the soul of the believer, everything we do for God must be based on our knowledge of God (9:7), Grace giving is giving back to God in sincere gratitude for what He has provided in grace through Christ (9:8),
- Grace giving multiplies its giving in love (9:10-12), Grace giving recognizes and accepts grace authority in every aspects of life (9:13).

Tithing is compulsive giving, obligated by emotion or human laws, enforced by coercion, guilt and personal sins

of the giver, motivated by selfish desires for human recognition and approbation which earns no reward in time or in eternity. God did not promise greater material blessing to believers who tithes, but He supplies adequately for us to survive the cosmic system. It is human viewpoint and religious teaching that oblige or force the believers to pay their tithes. It is the divine viewpoint that motivates the believers to give in grace. For Israel as to the Church, it is far from keeping your words (promises, pledges or vows) to God; it is God keeping His Word, His promises to men.

Grace giving calls for proper administration of church money- the priority of every local church is to provide its members genuine Bible doctrine and NOT to build expensive building or equipments. Grace giving requires spirituality from each giver, when you give under carnality your giving is useless and unacceptable to God.

Grace giving is free will giving, based on Bible doctrine, enforced by the filling of the Holy Spirit as result of spiritual growth and manifestation of divine good will be rewarded in time and in eternity. God is glorified by what He gives and not by what men are giving to Him. God created all things and there is nothing that we can give to God since we own nothing except our sins.

God gives us more grace (James 4:6) not to meet our material desires but to set us free from them so we can partake in His glory through spiritual maturity. The continuing battle between the flesh and the spirit is allowed by God not trap us but for us to seek freedom from it through the problem solving devices God has provided. The stain of fallen nature will continue to harass us by its craving for material comfort and pleasure of the world. As long as the believer focus on his temporal well being the transformation of his life into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ will not occur.

Materialistic Christians have wrong perception of God:

- They assess His love based on how well He satisfies their material needs
- They evaluate God based on how He delivers them from problems and troubles they make
- They judge God's power based on how He set them free from impossible situation
- They evaluate His justice based on unfairness and inequality they have received
- They calculate His mercy through their anger and bitterness for the sufferings they have in life
- They weigh God's compassion by how He answers their request and capriciousness
- They estimate God's faithfulness by how He responds to their clamoring and impossible petitions, thinking that God will violate his very own nature for their sake.

Some solemn warnings for Church Age believers:

- Preoccupation with the material things will keep you blind to see the fantastic things God has for you beyond the glory of the world.
- Your materialistic desires apart from spirituality and the Word of God in your soul only result in making God as your vehicle for attaining your selfish ambition.
- The world and its system is not your friend and will never be your friend. They are designed by Satan to destroy your spiritual life.
- Anyone can become frustrated with God if you take and believe the teaching of false ministers of God who invented and make their own system of doctrines.
- The advocates of Satan (the false ministers and even ignorant but true pastors) are offering you the glory of the world (Mat. 4:8-9) so that you will lose your heavenly rewards and blessings.
- Satan wants you to trust yourself, for you to use your human power, intelligence and resources so that he (Satan) will be glorified by your defiance and rejection of God.
- Satan wants you to have success in the world through your own strength, human wisdom, ability and resources so that you will keep distant from God.

God will reward those who diligent seek Him (Heb. 11:6) and what kind of reward this passage is talking about? God will reward the spiritually mature believer with intimacy with Himself. He will reward the spiritually mature believer (SMB) with Himself. The only way we can become free from our material desires that exceed our spiritual desire for God is by giving them to God. When you give God all your possessions and desires, they lost their power to possess or control you - this is freedom from materialism.

This is how we make spiritual quarantine of our desires:

- Give them all to God and let Him fulfill for you and discard them before your eyes
- When we give all our possessions and desire to God, then He is able to use them as He sees fit for our life – that is real stewardship of grace.
- When God owns everything that you have and the “all of you”, then you can find the true happiness that is found only in God through intimacy with Him.
- True contentment is not by what we possess and unhappiness is not by what we lack but only through the Person of Christ in us who is the source of our pure happiness.

Christian stewardship is the insatiable greed in sheep’s clothing, allowing people to pursue their selfish and worldly desires under the covering of religious pretense by spiritually retarded Christians deceived by their spiritually retarded pastors who rejected Bible doctrine.

The human desire (evil or legitimate) must be gauge:

- Examine your desires (are they coming from the motivation of the Spirit or old sinful nature?)
- Exchange your desire (if your desire is from old sinful nature then exchange with the desire of the Spirit for you)
- Express your desire (use the metabolized Bible doctrine to mix it with faith and apply it)
- Expire your desire (if that is old sinful nature motivated)
- Eagerly seek the desire of God for your life

One of greatest lie of the prosperity theology is power of the spoken word (rhematology) or thought actualization also known as positive confession. It stresses that each person predestines his own future by what he says verbally. They claimed that by verbalizing ones desires and keep talking about it, then it become a reality.¹ The gospel of health claimed physical healing for all sickness and illness if the Christians have enough faith.² The gospel of wealth claimed that it is God’s will for every Christian to be prosperous and that if a Christian is in poverty, he is outside God’s will.³ Just wait and see how these liars will be destroyed by the very heresies they invented.

Be zealous to do the will of God and seek the heavenly rewards but don’t forget these basic principles:

- We have our salvation and acceptance before God only by His grace.
- We have all our blessings only by His grace (Eph. 1:3, 2:8-9,) and more are coming from His grace.
- God accepts only perfection
- Our perfection is in the Lord Jesus Christ
- Perfection requires a perfect reward
- Our rewards shall not be based upon the merits of our service but upon the purpose of his grace (Mat. 20:1-16).
- No one receive “a crown” in heaven for giving money or sacrificing to false ministers of God.

The church Age believers are free creatures designed by God to live in spiritual freedom. Our spiritual freedom gives us the access to advance in our spiritual life, to reach spiritual maturity, to check the validity of doctrine we are receiving from the pulpit and to execute the will of God. Your freedom begins from the truth of Bible doctrine you have rejected. You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free (John 8:32).



Visit our websites:
www.dikaosune.com

¹ Copeland, Laws of Prosperity, p. 15

² Hagin, 7 Things You Should Know About Divine Healing, p. 21

³ Copeland, Laws of Prosperity, p. 51