

# *the Boss of me*

## *Study Four The Boss' Money*



*Written by Hal Gaudet*



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## Study Four The Boss' Money

### Introduction & Review

**We have been studying** for the past few weeks about a mindset built upon the proper understanding of Christ's rightful POSITION over His creation. As Creator, and as Savior, He not only is the owner of me, He is the BOSS of me. And therefore, I do not own the things that are in my life, I am simply performing as the MANAGER of the things that God has entrusted to me. And until I see myself as a MANAGER and stop acting as the boss of me, I will not experience the fulfillment, the blessing, and the protection in my life that Christ offers to the believer who is living out Christ's teaching on this subject of stewardship.

**IN PREVIOUS** weeks we looked at a couple of the Boss' assets that He permits us to manage.

**The first asset** the Boss let's us manage is the **RELATIONSHIPS** we are a part of throughout our lives. We concluded from Scripture that our relationship with God and our relationships with people are INSEPERABLY LINKED. I can not seek closeness with God while harboring animosity toward others. I can not seek forgiveness with God if I am unwilling to extend it to others. Our horizontal and vertical relationships are connected and directly impact and influence each other.



**The second asset** that the Boss let's us manage is the **TIME** each one of us has been given to manage. We learned from several passages that Christians must remember we've been given a **FIXED AMOUNT** of time for the **PURPOSE** of **GROWING** God's eternal Kingdom. Christians must spend God's time carefully in order to maximize its eternal effect for His Kingdom.

**THIS WEEK** we are going to look at a third asset that the Boss let's us manage and see if there's a mindset or perspective we can adopt from Scripture that will improve our management skills with regard to **the Boss' money**.

**If we keep with our theme** that we are only **MANAGING** the **BOSS'** things, most of us would probably agree that even our money isn't really ours. We would probably consent that any wealth or material possessions we have ultimately come from God and He therefore is the rightful owner of any money or material things we have, true? After all, the He owns the cattle on a thousand hills, right?

*Here are some tithing and offering passages that reinforce this idea of God being the rightful owner, the Boss of all wealth and material possession, and that we should be givers of what we have.*

### **Deuteronomy 8:18**

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

### **1 Chronicles 29:12**

Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.



### Psalm 89:11

The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them.

### Ecclesiastes 5:19

Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.

### Exodus 25:2

Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.

### Malachi 3:10

Bring ye all the tithes [10% portions] into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

### 1 Corinthians 3:21-22

Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours;

### ***Class Questions*** From these Scriptures...

- God owns it all? **Yes.**
- How much does God ask for back? **10%.**
- Does God really need our 10% to accomplish His plan on earth? **No.**
- If God doesn't need our 10%, then why does He ask for it? **To reveal in this physical world where our heart is really at.**



- So tithing and giving of material things are really a heart issue? **Yes.**
- Exactly what issue of the heart is God addressing through His values on giving? **SELFISHNESS.**

Now maybe you've been a believer for a while and you can rationalize certain "cracks" in your Christian façade such as **impatience** from time to time – hey who hasn't gotten frustrated trying to pull out onto Highway 192 here. Or maybe you were a little tired this week and didn't help out around the house as much as you could have – now I'm not saying anyone was **lazy** – hey, I was ti-i-ired! And we can justify some of those little un-Christ-like slips in our behavior, but to think of ourselves as SELFISH, well that's just an ugly quality for a Christian to be putting out there after being saved for such a long time. I mean, hasn't Christ had any effect on our lives? What, me, selfish? Are you kidding? No way...I'm not selfish. In fact, this study probably won't apply to any of us in here today, but as we go through it maybe we can think of all of those OTHER Christians who are selfish, and see if we can't learn something that might help THEM, okay?

Now if there is someone here today that is concerned that they could BECOME selfish, then today's study might serve as preventative medicine. *Because by the end of this study, we want to be able to answer this question:*

## Question

**How can Christians prevent a SELFISH IMBALANCE in the way they spend God's money?**

**Transition** Principles are timeless. Today we'll look at a principle Paul was teaching believers in the 1<sup>st</sup> century using Christ as the example that still fits life today. **Turn to 2 Corinthians 8:9.**



# Passage

## 2 Corinthians 8:9-15

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. **10** And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago. **11** Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. **12** For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. **13** For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: **14** But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: **15** As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.

### *Passage Question*

- 1.** From verse 9, what principle does Christ's example teach us about our willingness to give to others in need? **Christ did not place a LIMIT on how much it would cost Him to meet our needs; He was willing to go into the "red", and be completely SELFLESS for us.**
- 2.** Did Christ's sacrifice bring believers back into the "black"? **What Christ SELFLESSLY gave brought Christians way beyond the "black"; He made us RICH.**
- 3.** What principle does verse 11 teach believers about "intentions"? **Christians' good intentions don't accomplish anything until they are ACTED upon.**



4. What guideline do verses 12 and 13 teach about giving to the needs of others? Christians who are feeling led to give to the needs of others are to do so IN PROPORTION to what they have, and to avoid going into DEBT when giving.

5. In verses 14 and 15, although this passage addresses the dispersal of funds among multiple churches, what guiding principle summarizes our understanding of giving within our church family and personal life? Christians should be MINDFUL of the needs of others around them so that when they have the ability to meet such needs, they DO SO.



### *Passage Summary*

The overriding thought behind this whole passage is that none of the money I have is really mine to begin with. And after Christ spent so much on us, we can't even begin to act stingy. If in reality there is no "my slice of the pie", then I have the responsibility as a MANAGER of God's money to spend it SELFLESSLY not SELFISHLY. Christian's approach to GIVING reveals where our heart is really at.

**Transition** So HOW can we prevent a selfish imbalance in the way we spend God's money?

### *Application*

#### ***The answer is this:***

Beyond financially supporting their local church ministry, Christians can prevent a selfish IMBALANCE when spending God's money if they WATCH for opportunities to spend money that they've set aside for themselves -- on someone ELSE.



**Woe – wait a minute.** How can looking to give away my *personal stash* help me to not be selfish with the money God's given me? Listen, modern day Christians have a tendency to compartmentalize things. We categorize things and then dismiss them and don't give them another thought unless something prompts us. *Let me illustrate it this way:*

**Here are 3 types of Christians and the way they evaluate how well they are spending their money by their giving:**

**Passing Christian** "Okay, I tithed this week, I'm okay, I'm at least getting a "passing grade" on my finances before God. I mean hey, He doesn't tell us we have to give any more than 10% anyway. So me and God – we're cool with the whole money thing." *That's the Passing Grade Christian.*

**"B" Honor Role Christian** Then there's the Christian who is feeling even better about his finances with God because he not only tithed his 10%, but hey, "I gave some to missions this week. That's gotta be better than the average Christian! That's gotta at least be a B+ or maybe even an A-! Right?" *There's the "B" Honor Role Christian.*

**"A" Honor Role Christian** Now here's the superlative example of the Christian who has it all together with their finances before God. "Hey, I tithed this week, I gave to missions, I donated to the building fund, I even brought in some of my canned goods for the food pantry. I've gotta be at a 100% with God on this whole giving thing!" *That's the "A" Honor Role Christian.*

**But all three of these Christians share the same problem.** If we were to ask them about their personal money or spending cash that they consider "theirs", they would each be able to tell us about an amount of money that is see as "their" money.



It is "their" stash for "them" to spend on whatever "they'd" like; it's THEIR money. And the same would be true for their possessions. They would proudly show you around their house so you could see "their" stuff. "Yep – that's my plasma screen, hi-def television. Oh yeah, that PS3 really looks good on it!"

Some Christians (I know, not us Christians, those other Christians) have a mentality that's described in an old rock song from the 70's.

"Money, it's a crime. Share it fairly but don't take a slice of my pie." *Roger Waters*

Most of the Christians I know, myself included, will "Amen" the tar out of a preacher when he quotes Scriptures that say "It all belongs to God, none of it belongs to us." But as soon as we are away from the church property (*and sometimes before*) we are already scheming on how we are going to buy our next thing or use something we have without one thought being given to the people around us who may have a real need.

**The fact of the matter *is* that there *is* no "my slice of the pie."**



**Transition** Okay, so how do we put this mentality into real life? How do we put a preventative habit or practice into our lives today, right now?



## Call to Action

Like with any change we want to make in the way we do our Christianity, we've got to figure out where to start. To help us with that we can take a "Selfish" Self Evaluation Quiz. *And then watch for opportunities to spend some of our "extra" on someone else.*

### Do my giving habits reveal a selfish tendency in my heart?

1. Do I agree with the concept that God is the rightful owner of everything, including "my stuff"? **Yes. No.**
2. Do I believe that God uses the principle of tithing as a way of helping Christians "see" where their heart really is on the issue of selfless giving? **Yes. No.**
3. Am I currently tithing in the local church I have been attending? **Yes. No.**
4. Does my giving to missions show my belief that God wants me to have a role in reaching other nations with the Gospel? **Yes. No.**
5. Do I ACT on the desire to help meet needs I hear about in and outside of my church family? **Yes. No.** (If no, when will I?)

### *Renewing Our Minds with Scripture Memory*

As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack. *2 Corinthians 8:15*

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