

STEWARDSHIP AND BUSINESS

Charles Paul Conn writes about an actual experience one man had in the Deep South. He says, "When I lived in Atlanta several years ago, I noticed in the Yellow Pages, in the listing of restaurants, an entry for a place called the Church of God Grill. The peculiar name aroused my curiosity and I dialed the number. A man answered with a cheery 'Hello! Church of God Grill!' I asked how his restaurant had been given such an unusual name, and he told me: 'well, we had a little mission down here, and we started selling chicken dinners after church on Sunday to help pay the bills. Well, people liked the chicken, and we did such a good business, that eventually we cut back on the church service. After awhile we just closed down the church altogether and kept on serving chicken dinners. We kept the name we started with, and that's Church of God Grill'" (From Chuck Swindoll's "Tale of the Tardy Oxcart," p.214)

Sometimes if we are not keeping the main thing the main thing we can lose our focus just like the story of the church that sold the chicken dinners. I think by looking at the big picture and putting the Lord first we can make a difference. Instead of turning the church into a business we can turn our business into a way that God can be glorified and in turn reach others that may have never entered into regular church service.

When you talk about stewardship I think most Christians don't even think about how that plays a part in a business but it should.

Prov. 3:5-10 *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing: and your vats will brim over with new wine."*

Can you believe how awesome God is? If God is willing to do that in our personal lives why wouldn't He do it for a business that honors Him?

I know some of you are saying “that was the old testament law” well guess what, Jesus never took away from the law he would add to it example Matt 5:27-28 and 5:21-22 murder and adultery, if you look at a women with lust you have already committed adultery in your heart.

Did Jesus believe in tithes and offerings, well listen to this verse and you tell me.

Matt 23:23 *“Woe to you teachers of the law and the Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices-mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law- justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”*

I think that God’s word says without a doubt that he wants to open the windows and pour out His blessings on us so why shouldn’t we want to bless Him with all our heart, wealth, mind and soul.

Malachi 3:10 *“ 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 you will not have room enough for it.”*

So the question is what do I have to lose? The Lord answers that;

Haggai 1:9 *“ You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the Lord Almighty? “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house.”*

I know in our hearts that none of us want to rob God, so if you aren’t doing so in your company lets honor God with our firstfruits and test Him in this.

Remember it’s all from Him, to Him, and For Him!

Millionaires

L Kraft, head of the Kraft Cheese Corp., who had given approximately 25% of his enormous income to Christian causes for many years, said, “ The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord.”

J. D. Rockefeller said, “ I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was \$1.50 per week.”

Quotes:

I have tried to keep things in my hands and lost them all, but what I have given into God’s hands I still possess. (Martin Luther)

When it comes to giving, some people will stop at nothing.
(Jimmy Carter)

God judges what we give by what we keep.

(G. Mueller)

The trouble is that too many people are spending money they haven’t yet earned for things they don’t need to impress people they don’t like.

Give according to your income, lest God make your income according to your giving.

(Peter Marshall)