

**SATAN’S PLAN FOR CHURCH FINANCES:**

**DIVIDE & CONQUER**

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Matthew 12:22-28

*Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.*

Our Lord says there was a house; being divided was its downfall.

Satan is a liar/divider.

* Divided Eve from Adam, truth, righteousness, life…Eve was a creation of God, but was divided.
* Divided Job from God’s protective hedge.
* Wanted to divide Jesus from His Father’s will in Matthew 4.
* Today, Satan wants to divide the church from Biblical stewardship. Then we miss the blessings of God.

Today, Satan says that tithing was Old Testament and we are not under the law.

* This is false: we are required to go beyond the law under grace.
* The law was not a mystical creator of a principle or truth. The law was simply an identifier.

Genesis 3—Lying: 2000 years later, law identified it.

Genesis 4—Murder: 2000 years later, law identified it.

Genesis 19—Sodomy: 2000 years later, law identified it.

Giving tithes and offerings was established from the beginning.

* Genesis 14—Abraham to Melchizedek
* Genesis 20—Jacob at Bethel

The law does not resist grace or counteract it.

“Paul and James are not enemies presenting grace and law; they are comrades, standing back-to-back, fighting off common enemies.”

The church needs to be taught and instructed regarding stewardship.

**Suggestions for Teaching/Preaching on Stewardship**

* Read about stewardship from other Baptist authors (there are not a lot out there)
* You be faithful in giving, as a pastor or leader
* Set a time each year and spend 4-6 weeks on stewardship
* Teach a little, preach a little; preach a little, teach a little.

**Stewardship Outline**

Tithes—fear based; a debt we owe–10%

Offerings—love based; a gift we give–? amount

Missions—sacrifice based; a burden we share–? amount

**Philosophy of Stewardship**

Genesis 43—Joseph as a steward

* Did as he was told
* Did not question
* Did not hesitate
* Obeyed immediately
* Result: saved Joseph’s family, saved nation of Israel, allowed Messiah to be born

Luke 12—Rich Fool

* We see money as ours; God sees money as entrusted to us
* We are greedy; God is generous
* We are selfish; God is sacrificial
* We see money as a measure of our success; God sees money as a measure of our fear of Him

**Stewardship Basics**

Proverbs 3:9-10, *Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.*

* Honor
* Substance
* First fruits
* All thine increase

Malachi 3:10, *Bring ye all the tithes 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.*

* “*Prove me now herewith…”* – we must obey first
* Zero savings; zero growth
* Zero 401k; zero match
* Zero investment; zero return

Malachi 3:11, *And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.*

* Exodus 25:5—gave badger skins for the tabernacle
* Exodus 16:10—badger skins were used for shoes
* Deuteronomy 29:5—shoes lasted 40 years

**Missions**

II Corinthians 8:1-8

*Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.*

To prove the sincerity of your love—do you love the lost world?

Philippians 4:19, *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Giving to Paul’s missionary work put them on grounds to claim Philippians 4:19.

Have faithful men give a 5-7 minute testimony before each message.