"Wisdom's Checklist, Part 3"
Proverbs 3:9-10

C.I.T.—Giving financially to the kingdom of God serves as worship.
C.I.S.—We must worship the LORD by giving money to the church.
Purpose—I want the men to make a commitment to honor the LORD with their first fruits.
Introduction—Wisdom's checklist is designed to give us disciplines that will further our fellowship with Jesus. The others make sense to us, but there is one that we don't always think about: kingdom giving.

- Giving before the Law—sacrifices, Cain and Abel, tithe of Abraham and Jacob, altar sacrifices—gave to the Lord out of the harvest the Lord provided
- Giving codified in the Law of Moses—sacrificial system and tithing system—take the firstfruits of your harvest, the first and the best, and give it to the Lord through the Levites and the Temple
- Giving confirmed in the New Testament—joyful, grace giving, which was systematic, proportional, and cooperative in that it was given through the local church ministry.
- The principle of the tithe, while not a law under the new covenant, is a Biblical principle for Kingdom Giving.

I. ***Kingdom Giving Reveals Worship*** vs. 9a
   a. Honor--imperative—command and expectation
      i. Means to make heavy or to be heavy.
      ii. Figuratively it came to mean "to give worth or value" to something.
      iii. The thing that was heaviest was the most important and valuable.
   b. With/from your wealth
      i. Agricultural community, this refers to the harvest/increase of the flocks
      ii. money/paycheck/financial portfolio
      iii. From—not with
         1. If it was with, it could refer to how one manages his entire portfolio
         2. Since it is from, it refers to a portion taken from that portfolio and given
   c. Honoring The LORD
      i. Give in a way that shows priority and obedience to the LORD.
      ii. There is a way that we can give that doesn't honor the Lord and a way that does.
   d. When we give from our wealth, it should be done in such a way that it prioritizes Jesus and His priorities.
   e. Matthew 6:21
   f. Illus.—Do you want to know what is important to someone, look at their calendar and their checkbook
   g. Application
      i. The way you spend your time, energy, and ultimately money reveals what is most important to you.
      ii. What does your kingdom giving say is important to you?
      iii. What does your lack of kingdom giving say is important to you?
      iv. Does it worship the Lord?

II. ***Kingdom Giving Requires Trust*** vs. 9b
   a. First-fruits
      i. Refers in general to the beginning portion of our income or produce
      ii. Specifically it refers to a part of the Jewish sacrificial and religious system.
      iii. The firstfruits were the tithe that was given to support the Priests and Levites, as well as benevolence for the poor.
   b. Taking the first of the harvest and the best of the harvest and giving it the LORD.
      i. Pre-tax or post-tax? Gross or net?
      ii. First-fruits or leftovers?

c. This would represent the guaranteed portion of the crop—the rest of the crop is not guaranteed.
d. By giving the firstfruits, you are trusting that God will take care of the "restfruits."
e. Matthew 6:31-34
f. Illus.—Asking for one of my son's oreos—he doesn't know that I have an entire bag to give him
g. Application
    i. We give faithfully, trusting that Jesus will take care of the rest.
    ii. When we trust our money instead of Jesus, we will not give anything.
    iii. If we don't trust Jesus, then we will not prioritize kingdom giving.
    iv. If you can trust Him with your life, don't you think you can trust Him with your money?

III. Kingdom Giving Returns Blessing vs. 10

a. Your storehouses will be filled and wine vats overflowing.
    i. With what will it be filled/overflowing—the remainder of the harvest.
    ii. Whatever the barn holds is the max, everything else would be lagniappe.
    iii. Wine vats were the lower portion of the carved in stone grape juicing mechanism
b. The Lord can do more with the 90% than you can do with the 100%.
c. They would not have even missed the firstfruits.
d. You cannot out give God.
e. **2 Corinthians 9:6, 10-12**—Reap what you sow
f. Illus.—Return on Investment—best investment you can make is in the Kingdom of God.
g. Application
    i. The LORD promises to respond to your faithfulness with blessing.
    ii. Either this is true or it is not.
    iii. How are we blessed?
        1. Kept humble—Protected from greed/pride.
        2. Our passion for Christ grows.
        3. He takes care of us.
    iv. Many say, how can I afford to give?
    v. How can we afford not to?

Conclusion

- Illus.—Boy in the Basket
- Your relationship will flourish through Kingdom Giving.
- It will languish without it.
- If I were to give you your giving record today, what would it say about where you are with Jesus?
- Does He have you?
    - Commitment with your spouse to tithe.
    - Start making budget decisions—sell a car, downgrade your phone bill, etc.
    - Start giving a tithe regularly
        - Set up an automated withdrawal with your bank.
        - Get some offering envelopes and submit a check.
    - See what God will do.

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Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:31 So don't worry, saying, 'What will we eat? ' or 'What will we drink? ' or 'What will we wear?' [32] For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. [33] But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. [34] Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

2 Corinthians 9:6 The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.

2 Corinthians 9:10 Now the one who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will also provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. [11] You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. [12] For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.