

**Devotion 25**  
**Money**

**Wednesday, Week 4**

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. (2 Corinthians 9:6)*

How do we manage the money that God has given us? I remember when our daughters were getting old enough to be able to “lawfully” see movies which were rated “R” —or even worse. Karen and I would say things to them like--yes, as they got older and went on to college, they could spend their money the way they chose, including on the movies they choose to see. Yet, we also made the point that there were some things that would never be right for us to spend money on, no matter how old we got. It was just wrong.

How do we manage the money that God has given us? “Dear Lord, always remind our people of the clear, straight line between financial support and the mission of Your church.” This was part of a prayer that a seminary professor of mine, now with the Lord, wrote.

How do we manage the money God has given us? First of all, we look to use every cent with which we are entrusted to His glory! Certainly, He would have us provide for ourselves and for those whom we love. Certainly, He would have us use our money for godly recreation, for hobbies, for school, to enjoy the arts, and in a thousand other ways besides the necessities of life. But just as certainly, He would have us give to the truly needy and hurting. And He would have us give a meaningful portion of the money He has entrusted to us in the weekly support of the mission and ministry of His Church.

Throughout this emphasis and in these devotions, we have focused on God’s guidance with respect to the stewardship of our money within the Church. His will is that we should give willingly, joyfully, proportionately, generously, and sacrificially. Certainly, the Old Testament tithe is also a guideline for us. Yet, as we approach this Commitment Sunday, I think it is most instructive to return to the words above from 2 Corinthians. As we support the day to day mission of our church and through it our Synod, it is good to remind ourselves that in this ministry also, “*What we sow, that is what we shall reap.*” Many might think this is a promise that good things will come our way if we give, and they won’t come if we don’t. And while this is absolutely true in God’s way and in God’s time through God’s work in Christ (*give and it will be given to you*), the great promise of this verse is that to the extent we give to the ministry, to that extent we shall see a harvest. As God gives us faith to believe this, may we joyfully respond!

**Prayer:** Dearest Jesus, You are the perfect example of One who sowed generously and reaped generously through Your death and resurrection. Send me the Holy Spirit, I pray, that He might lead me to a place of generous and joyful giving that I may know the joy of sowing—and reaping—generously. Amen!