**The Stewardship of Our Heritage**

**Our Heritage of Generous Giving**

**4 Key Principles of Stewardship**

1. God owns everything, you own nothing.

2. God entrusts you with everything you have.

3. You can either increase or diminish what God has given you; God wants you to increase it.

4. You can be called into account at any time, and it may be today.

3 reasons our forbearers gave so sacrificially

**I. Generous Giving \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Your Trust in God’s Faithfulness**

A. God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the children of Israel

**Malachi 3:8** - *Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, “How have we robbed You?” In tithes and offerings.*

B. God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Malachi 3:10-12** – “*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes,” says the Lord of hosts. “All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land,” says the Lord of hosts.*

**II. Generous Giving \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Sincerity of Your Love**

**2 Corinthians 8:1** - *Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia…*

A. God’s grace makes generous giving possible even when it is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2 Corinthians 8:2-3** - …*that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord…*

B. God’s grace makes generous giving possible from a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ heart

**2 Corinthians 8:4-5** - …*begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.*

**2 Corinthians 9:7** - *Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

C. God grace makes generous giving possible in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2 Corinthians 8:7** - *But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also.*

**Malachi 3:10** - “*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.”*

**III. Generous Giving \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God to Use You as a Powerful Example to Others**

**1 Thessalonians 1:7-8** - …*so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.*

**Malachi 3:10** - “*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.”*