



# GOOD STEWARDSHIP

## Summary Teaching On How The Church Works Part 4

**Tuesday, January 28, 2025**

**Online Bible Study**

**6:30 pm**

Zoom Meeting ID 973 678 1217, Passcode 6781293

Call-In 929-205-6099, Meeting ID 973 678 1217

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

**Email: [pastorwilson@stmatthewame.org](mailto:pastorwilson@stmatthewame.org)**

**Cell: (914) 562-6331**

## I. REVIEW OF PART 3

**Guiding Premise:** Regardless of denomination, size, reputation, age, etc., the institution of the church works (or doesn't work) because of the **giving** done by people in 3 main areas:

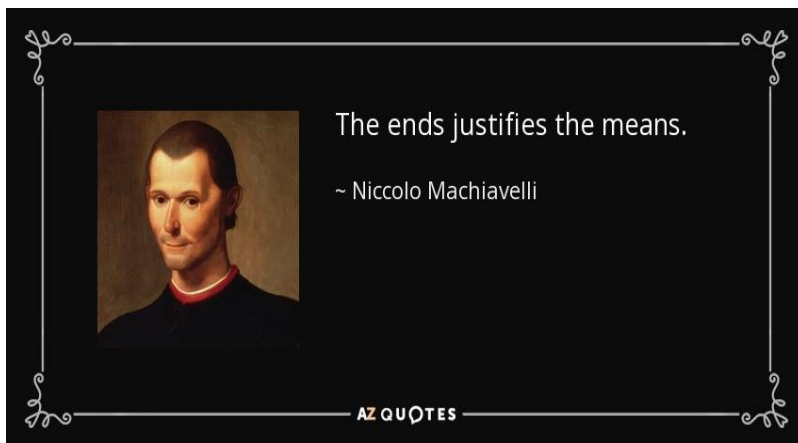
1. The Giving of Time
2. The Giving of Gifts/Talents/Skills/Abilities/Expertise
3. The Giving of Money

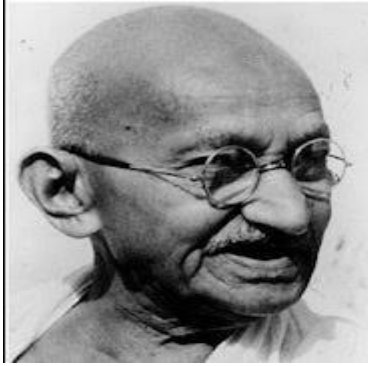
## II. THE CHURCH WORKS (OR DOESN'T WORK) WHEN PEOPLE GIVE THEIR MONEY

- A. A common sense point
  1. You have costs and expenses related to **“your”** house and life.
  2. There are costs and expenses related to the life and operation of God's house. Why would maintaining the church be any different from maintaining your home?
- B. Reviewed how the synagogue was funded in the Bible
  1. **THE POINT:** Every institution needs a stream of income to fund its existence and its work. The church is no different.
- C. Reviewed how Jesus and his followers funded their ministry
  1. Donations from his followers and other supporters. Mostly women.
  2. Bi-vocational

**THE EARLY CHURCH OPERATED ON THE FREE & VOLUNTARY GIVING OF MATERIALS AND MONEY GIVEN BY THE PEOPLE.**

- D. How have churches funded their ministry and how do churches fund their ministry today?
  1. Every way you can think of, including ways that are not necessarily **“spiritual.”** No need to feel bad about it. Just realize it.





If one takes care of the means, the end will take care of itself.

— Mahatma Gandhi —

2. Why did churches have to do that? Why do many churches still do it today? Because:
  - a. There is heavy practical and political pressure to generate money to cover a full range of church-related expenses
  - b. Members would rather “raise” the money (which involves receiving money from others) than outright “give” the money (which places the obligation on us). We like projects because they are tangible. We never calculate true costs.
  - c. **A main problem:** these methods distract us from the true purpose of the church.
  - d. What happens when there is a change in the operating ability of a church, a decline in active membership, or a decline in the number of people who give?
3. Hope you purchase my new book, “*The Chicken Who Died So The Church Might Live*”
- E. Reviewed why people don’t (won’t) give “*their money*” to the church
- F. The abuse/misuse/mismanagement of church money
  1. Churches have systems
  2. We assume the worst about clergy and pastoral leadership. Fueled by the media, word of mouth, and excesses we see from a limited few.
  3. We make assumptions not based on facts, but based on what we see, hear, and think.
  4. The lay are not exempt from financial mismanagement
- G. Most of us don’t understand money, how money works, and the purpose of money.

### III. SUMMARY TEACHINGS FROM THE SERIES

- A. You should know how your church works. This has to be an intentional educational experience on your part.
  1. What is your church’s structure?
  2. What does your church believe? What is it based on?
  3. How does your church operate?
  4. What ministries exist (or don’t exist) in your church?
  5. What is your church’s “**fiscal rhythm?**”
  6. What are the expectations of membership?

B. The institution of the church cannot work without you.

## C H R C H

What's missing?

C. The time you give to the church's ministry will be largely uncompensated. A church cannot afford to pay people for all the time they give.

1. Why does the church pay anybody?

D. If the church is a priority in your life, it will be reflected in how you give your time, gifts, and money.

E. If you are not already doing this, you should strongly consider using your gifts to build up the ministry of your church.

F. You **have** money to give to your church. The question is always, "*will you give it?*"

1. "**We have money for what we want to have money for.**"

2. Social media often tells the story.

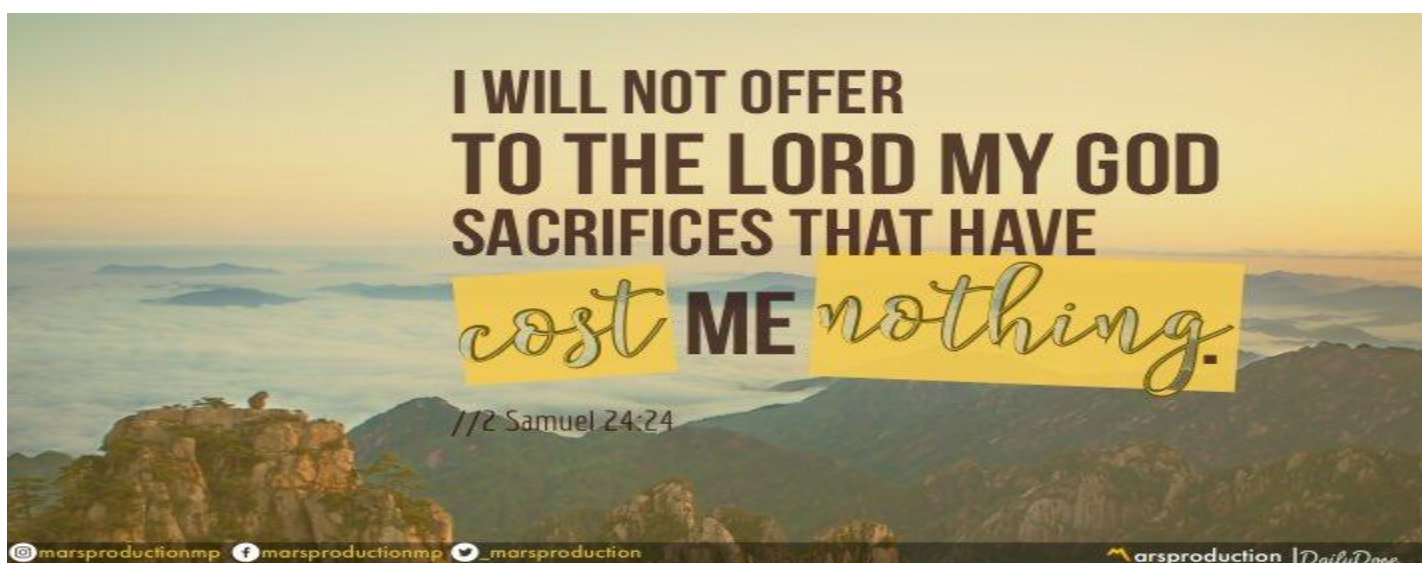
3. The amount of our gift should be sensible and reasonable.

G. It is appropriate to expect that a system of financial accountability is in place.

1. Remember, a report tells you **what already happened.**

H. Sermon Quote: "*It's not just what you see in the church that costs money, it's what you don't see (or consider or think about) that costs money.*"

I. **BOTTOM LINE:** Can you trust that the church and the leadership of the church will use the money you give appropriately?



#### IV. WHAT HAVE **YOU** LEARNED FROM THIS TEACHING & PREACHING SERIES?

A. How do you feel about it?

B. Have you been convicted or convinced in any way?

C. Do you feel worse?

D. Are you able to confront any real issues you may have with giving to the church?



*Honor the Lord with your wealth,  
with the firstfruits of all your crops;  
then your barns will be filled to  
overflowing, and your vats will  
brim over with new wine.*

*Proverbs 3:9-10*

V. WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

VI. TRANSITION




**NEWARK DISTRICT**  
*Prayer Night*  
FOR THE  
**5<sup>th</sup>** EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Join us as we gather to intercede in prayer for those impacted by the Southern California wildfires

"AND PRAY IN THE SPIRIT ON ALL OCCASIONS WITH ALL KINDS OF PRAYERS AND REQUESTS. WITH THIS IN MIND, BE ALERT AND ALWAYS KEEP ON PRAYING FOR ALL THE LORD'S PEOPLE."  
-EPHESIANS 6:18

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025**  
**7:00PM**

REV. DR. CARLTON C. WOODWARD, PRESIDING ELDER  
REV. BLANCHE G. WOODWARD, CONSULTANT

 ZOOM: 895 8931 6485  
PASSCODE: 649641





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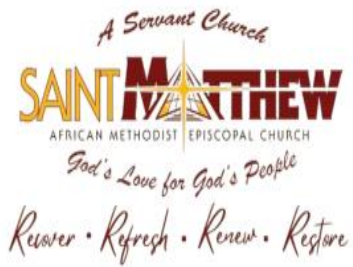


## You are Invited to Our..... FAMILY SUPER BOWL TAILGATE AND WATCH PARTY

When: Sunday, February 9 at 5:30PM

Hosted by: The Sons of Allen of St. Matthew A.M.E. Church





*August 2025*  
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The Chesapeake State



Visit and Stay at Baltimore Inner Harbour  
Feast at a World Famous Crabfest  
Worship at Mt. Zion UMC,  
Rev. Martin Odom, Pastor  
Son of St. Matthew AME Church

**Information Coming Soon...**

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson  
Pastor/Teacher

