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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stealing</li> <li>2. Stewardship</li> <li>3. Speaking</li> <li>4. Stewing</li> </ol> |
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**Review:**

Don't live in the ugly state of the Gentiles. Put Off and Put On  
 How we might be giving the devil a foothold in our life: 4 WAYS:

**Verse 28**

**GK word order:** The one who is stealing, let him no longer be stealing. (Present Imperative) (ongoing)  
 Stealing was not totally condemned in the ancient heathen world. Recent converts could easily slip into this "accepted" way of supplementing their income especially when they become unemployed.

This may seem "shocking" that thieving was so strong in the Asiatic churches. Paul's epistles bear witness to sin even worse like II Cor. (Son with his father's wife!) – Being saved doesn't mean being SINLESS  
 God Says: Gen 6:5, 8:21, Jer 17:9 Every inclination of the heart is continually evil. FIGHT SIN for LIFE.

**but must work GK:** To weary oneself with labor (Present Imperative) (from labor and fatigue)

Not just work, but put a lot of strenuous effort into our work/job. We put lots of effort into our work working wholeheartedly as if working for the Lord. (Talk more in Eph 6 later.)

Two Reasons: 1) Witness to co-workers and our supervisors. 2) Earn resources empowering us 2 help the needy.

**Doing useful/GOOD** stuff with own hands. Instead of doing the work of thieving with one's hands.

**Share/Give GK:** Present tense IE: (ongoing or repeated action)

Instead of stealing from others, Paul strongly admonishes believers to earn money to Share with those in need.

The focus is on **using** our **resources wisely**.

We are **stewards** of **His resources**.

**Biblical Stewardship** Wikipedia def: "Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation."

**4 PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STEWARDSHIP**

**1. Ownership**

- a. Psalm 24 *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.* I Cor 10:26.
- b. A steward does not own the wealth, but manages the wealth. (Like a financial investor.)
- c. Our salary from employment, house, car, all our toys, are not really ours. They are his. We are only managing their use. Self-focus or other focus. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills. Psalm 50:10.

**2. Responsibility**

- a. **I Tim 6:17 - 19.** Read and analyze both verses. "true life" life both in Heaven and on Earth now.
- b. *Although God gives us "all things richly to enjoy, nothing is ours" God owns everything; we're responsible for how we treat it and what we do with it. While we complain about our rights here on earth, the Bible constantly asks, **What about your responsibilities?** Owners have rights; stewards have responsibilities. (Bill Peel)*

**3. Accountability**

- a. **Luke 19:11-24** The Parable of the Stewards with Minas and cities.
- b. **Matthew 25:14-29** The Parable of the Talents
- c. Parable of Minas and talents.
  - 1) Why did some get 10, 5, and just 1? Does God know our capability? Thom talks about \$ amount.
  - 2) Why in Matt 25:28 was the one bag of gold taken and given to the person with 10 bags?
    - a) That person is a better steward of God's resources. God knows s/he will be effective.
    - b) That loss of gold to the third person affected their confidence. I wonder how often we short circuit our financial state of being by holding on too tightly to what God gives us?

**4. Rewards**

- a. **Col 3:23 -24.** All turn to this passage to read. "Working for the Lord, not an employer."
- b. Judgement seat of Christ **II Cor 5:10**
- c. **Matt 10:40-42** Jesus talked about giving a cup of cold water in his name will not lose their reward in Heaven. When giving to the needy, you will not lose your reward.

**Side Chat:**

Not letting people give to us robs them of the **joy** of giving.

**Mindset/Attitude for Giving:**

There are many blessings to us in giving including personal **joy** and **good** feelings. The blessings may be financial. They may be an item lasting longer than it should.

- Jews in desert 40 years: Sandals, clothing, etc lasted!

**Don't** give for the **purpose** of being blessed by the Lord because giving doesn't work that way.

- Jewish leader prayed out loud for show, Jesus said he already received their reward from men.
- Would you rather receive your reward from God or from men? Keep to yourself what you give to who so your heavenly Father will reward you in heaven.

**Deut 15:7-8, 10-11** don't be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. Give generously to him without a grudging heart because then the Lord will bless you.

**II Cor 9:6-11 2 Corinthians 9:7** Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver**.

**HOW DO WE EQUIP AND EMPOWER OURSELVES TO GIVE?****Budgeting (Stewards) of our Income**

The Lord gave me the idea about adding financial budgeting in my morning prayer time.

People can spend their paycheck without a plan or budget. They can spend until they run out of money.

People can make plans for how they spend their money before receiving the money. In the plan (budget), setting aside money is based on priorities.

- Electric, phone/cell, TV, heat, water, sewage, Rent/Mortgage, Car, food, What's missing?
- Emergencies? Retirement? Savings? **GOD???** Don't plan for **emergencies**, you will **never** be **ready!** Don't plan for giving to God, you will not be satisfied with your giving.

**How to get started with Budgeting Stewardship**

1. Write a list of all your monthly expenses like food, gas, rent, electricity, fun, cable, cell,
2. Examine **total costs** for the month. What's really necessary & what's not necessary. Eating out, Coffee,
3. Make a plan to set aside money for the Lord. Support local church. Give to Christian organizations.

**Tithing Discussion**

Tithing is often mentioned in the OT and referenced in the NT.

Old Testament is FULL of verses speaking to "giving 1<sup>st</sup> fruits" to the Lord. Mal 3:9-10

**II Cor 9:7:**  
Giving with **LOVE**

If give out of feeling obligated -- **10%**, **Rom 14:23** anything that does not **come** from **faith** is **sin!**

**Phil 4:19** focus My God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory. Often MISQUOTED!

**Giving** is based on **FAITH**. **Giving** is a **step** of **faith**.

**Luke 6:35**

But love your enemies, do good to them, & lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, & you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

**Luke 6:38**

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." If Stingy – receive little!

**Budgeting our Time!! Stewardship!**

Just as keeping to a budget for your monthly finances, we all need to keep to a budget for our time too.

The time we have on Earth was given to us by the Lord. We are **Stewards** of **Time**

We are responsible to the Lord for how we redeem the time.

**Read Bible at Work!**  
**Listen to Christian Music!**

To budget our time, we need to list the free time we have when not sleeping or physically at our jobs.

- We need to choose x amount of minutes first for **prayer**
- Then set aside x amount of minutes for **bible reading**.
- The **Lord** comes **first** in this **budget**, as he should in a financial budget.

What I'm recommending is setting daily **MINIMUM amounts of time** with the Lord in bible reading and prayer Just remember as you only have so much money, you only have so much time! **BALANCE** is key. **PLAN AHEAD** make sure you allow **enough time** for all these items to be **adequately** covered. We will **NEVER** get ahead if we **don't budget our time**.

Now, after following your budget for a day(s), week(s) you may realize it needs **tweaked**. When making a Diet Plan to lose weight, but don't stick to plan, what happens? Same thing with a time budget!

**Verse 29**

**Unwholesome/Corrupt** (GK: rotten, worn out, unfit for use, worthless, bad.)

**come out of/proceed** mouth! **GK: Present Imperative** (Command & Ongoing action) Don't say the words!

**Actual GK word order:** "every word that is corrupt, out of your mouth let it not proceed."

**VOMIT:** when young you just let it flow, don't try to hold it back. When older though, you try to hold ...

- Any words that are "worthless" to the hearer, don't let them out of your mouth. Like vomit. Hold it in!
- Any words that are "worn out"... could those be words we say to someone 10K times? Over and over?
- Any words that are "rotten"... Would you give a rotten tomato or potato to a person? Really Foul Stink!!

Where do the words in our mouths come from that we speak?

<b>Decision</b>	Keep it in? Let it flow?
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- Mind Romans 12:1-2 Phil 4:8
- Heart Matt 12:34 Luke 6:45 out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. Col 3:1

Know what that means? We need to monitor every word before it hits our mouth. **PROACTIVELY...**

**James 3:3-11 – speaks to dangers of the tongue** Read Passage with Group following along

- Tongue "small" part but makes "great" boasts.
- **Verse 6** tongue a FIRE! Devil uses it: Our tongues should not be burning up (down) anybody's lives.
- James 3:8 Tongue "restless evil" "full of deadly poison"
- Who can tame it? No human. What do we do then with our tongues? Ask Jesus to help us.

**BUT (Bible But!!!) ONLY WORDS... Instead of unwholesome words...**

**Helpful building up/minister grace** others **up**/edify/encourage

How do we build others up and encourage them?

**According to their need** GK construction (at the moment)

- How do we know their needs? Listen more than we talk!
- We need to be involved in their lives. Personal one on one but also prayer chains.
- How often do we contact someone to pray on behalf of one in need?

**Benefit/Grace GK:** Grace in salvation How much do the words out of our mouths **GRACE** those in need?

**Listen/Hear** PAP Present tense... ongoing listeners.

**Grace GK:** same Charis as in salvation.

People are listening to us for a word of encouragement in an "ongoing fashion".

We need to be ready in season and out of season to offer encouragement. Jesus smiles when we do this!!

**AMP:** Let no foul *or* polluting language, *nor* evil word *nor* unwholesome *or* worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good *and* beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need *and* the occasion, that it may be a blessing *and* give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it.

**Verse 30**

**AND** This word ties into the topic of unwholesome rotten words of verse 29

Rotten foul smelling unwholesome words **GRIEVE** the Holy Spirit. This flies in the face of God's holiness.

**Grieve GK word order** "Stop grieving the Spirit, the Holy Spirit of God." "ongoing actions"

The Spirit who lives within us has feelings. We can **GRIEVE** Him by our words.

**Sealed** Eph 1:13-14

WE need to **monitor** our **words** before they are out of our mouth to ensure they are not grieving the Spirit. Our unwholesome corrupt words are "**repugnant**" to Him. Extremely distasteful; unacceptable

### Verse 31 ...

**Get Rid of..GK:** “to bear away what has been raised, to carry off, to take away.”

**All GK:** all manner of ie: “every morsel of” “FAT Tuesday – ASH Wednesday”

**Bitterness GK:** resentfulness, harshness, virulence From this **GK** word we get “pick” tool or the action.

**Rage** Outburst of anger **Wuest:** a violent outbreak of anger, anger boiling up and soon subsiding again

**Anger** settled feeling of anger.

**Brawling** Quarrel, shouting, or clamor. The outcry of passion.

**Slander** GK: blasphemia Compound of injure and speech

All forms of **Malice** Ill-Will, wickedness. Your life mission is to cause harm to a person!

**There is a progression here.** If you don't get rid of bitterness in your life, you sink a step deeper into rage, then anger, brawling, slander, and malice. **Slippery Slope!!!**

**WHAT MAKES US BITTER?** What leads to these increasingly higher levels of harsh actions in v31??

Being **unforgiving** to a person. When we don't forgive, we harbor less than positive feelings and attitude toward the unforgiven. That unforgiving mindset leads to bitterness and all the other words in verse 31.

From **David Jeremiah** Turning Point Wed Feb 3

The Bible tells us to beware our enemy and know his methods. Peter told us to be sober and vigilant against Satan (**1 Peter 5:8**). Paul told us to stand against the wiles of the devil (**Ephesians 6:11**). And **2 Corinthians 2** warns that when we fail to forgive another person, the devil can take advantage of us. He finds a *foothold* in an *unforgiving* spirit. He uses the foothold to bore into our souls and pipe toxic fumes into our life personalitiy.

**If we fail to forgive**, not only are we BITTER but also look what bible says happend to the unforgiven person:

### **II Cor 2:7-8**

7 Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be **overwhelmed** by **excessive** sorrow.

8 I urge you, therefore, to **reaffirm** your **love** for him. (Should we stop loving a person we need to forgive?)

We are giving the devil a foothold in both our lives and the life of the person we refuse to forgive!

**Example:** Woman holding an unforgiving attitude towards her pastor. Who is being hurt more, the woman or pastor? This pastor will have doubt about themselves. Doubt is a seed the devil loves to cultivate!

### Verse 32

**Be GK:** to become (A process – not once and done event!)

**Kind GK:** “*benevolent, gracious, kind*” from word meaning: “to furnish what is needed. Profitable, fit, good for any use.” Speak and take actions towards others that are giving the person what they need.

**Compassionate GK:** Affectionate and full of compassion.

**Forgiving GK:** “*to do a favor to, do something agreeable or pleasant to one, to show one's self gracious, benevolent, to forgive in the sense of treating the offending party graciously.*” Not the word used of Christ's forgiveness on the cross “putting away” our sins by paying the penalty. Does this allow us to **hold a grudge**? Our Lord's Prayer “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive” Wowwers... oh my... tough standard!

### Applications to Us:

#### 1. **Forgiveness**

a. Who may you be holding a grudge against or not completely forgiving?

b. What should you do?

#### 2. How are you doing in being a **Steward** of God's resources that He's giving you?

a. How effective is your financial budget in giving to the Lord and yourself?

b. How much of your time is spent on matters of eternal value?