

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER 90% ?

(Part One in a Series)

Many Christians are familiar with the Biblical concept of tithing, setting aside the first 10% of our income for God. Some of us have even tried it! When we tithe, God is faithful to the promise of Malachi 3:10, “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.”

So that takes care of 10%, but what about the other 90%? Isn't that ours to keep, spend or splurge however we want? Once we've released our tithe, aren't we off the hook?

Stewardship doesn't end with the first 10%; God has a loftier vision. God expects us to be good stewards of everything, the whole 100%! “The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,” (Psalm 24:1a). God owns it all! He lets us use some of it, but it's all God's!

How can we be faithful caretakers of all the wealth entrusted to us? In this series, we'll be exploring ways to expand the scope of stewardship and make sound decisions to honor Christ with “the other 90%.”

One essential stewardship strategy for the other 90% is to make sure we have a legally-binding estate plan so the things of this world are distributed efficiently when we move on to the next. Estate plans need not be complex. Often a simple will and other basic planning tools consistent with our Christian values will suffice. Estate plans enable us to minimize expense and controversy at death, and maximize resources available to those God has led us to bless.

By Stephen L. Bloom, Esquire

We welcome Attorney Bloom as an Estate Planning Consultant to The Stewardship Foundation. He is a member of Grace UMC in Carlisle, Advanced Lay Speaker, frequent speaker on Christianity and the Law and founder of the Estate Planning Council of Cumberland County. Visit www.practicalcounsel.com, call 717-249-7717 or e-mail sbloom@practicalcounsel.com.

