Christian’s Resources And Responsibilities

Intro: Luke 12:48 “But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.” The Christian has been given many blessings from God. As a result of these blessings, he has certain responsibilities. In this lesson let us consider the Christian’s resources with the resultant responsibilities.

I. What The Christian Has Been Given.
   A. He has been given a Savior.
      1. Luke 2:11 “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”
      2. Acts 13:23 “Of this man’s seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:”
      3. This Savior was given to us by God.
         a. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
         b. 1 John 4:14 “And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.”
         c. Not because we deserved a Savior; but because of God’s grace; Heb. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”
      4. This Savior saves us from our sins.
         a. Mat. 1:21 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”
         b. Acts 5:31 “Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”
         c. There is salvation no where else; Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
   B. He has been given a Bible.
      1. Tit. 2:11-12 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”
      2. This Bible is God’s Word.
         a. 2 Tim. 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”
         b. 1 Thc. 2:13 “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”
         c. 1 Pet. 1:23 “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
      3. Seven evidences that the Bible is God’s Word.
         a. The Testimony of Jesus; that He was more than mere man.
         b. The books of the Bible (their unity, style, structure, etc.).
         c. Fulfilled Prophecy.
d. Scientific inerrancy.
e. Archaeology.
f. The Influence of the Bible.
g. The Victory over all Attacks.

4. Poem:
Many years ago I entered the wonderful temple of God's revelation; I entered the portico of Genesis and walked through the Old Testament art galleries where the pictures of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and Joshua, Samuel and David and Daniel hung on the wall. I entered the music room of the Psalms where the Spirit swept the keyboard of nature and brought forth the dirge-like wail of the weeping prophet Jeremiah, to the grand impassioned strains of Isaiah, until it seemed that every reed and harp in God's organ of nature responded to the tuneful touch of David, the sweet singer of Israel.

I entered the chapel of Ecclesiastes where the voice of the preacher was heard, and passed into the conservatory of Sharon where the lily of the valley’s sweet scented spices filled and perfumed my life. I entered the business room of Proverbs and passed into the observatory room of the prophets where I saw many telescopes of various sizes, some pointing to far off events but all concentrated upon the bright and morning star which was soon to rise over the moonlit hills of Judah for our salvation.

I entered the audience room of the King of kings and caught a vision from the standpoint of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I entered the Acts of the Apostles where the Holy Spirit was doing His office work in the forming of the church. I passed into the correspondence room where sat Paul, Peter, James, Jude, and John penning their epistles. I stepped into the throne room of Revelation, where all towered into glittering peaks. I got a vision of the King seated upon His throne in all His glory and I cried, “All hail the power of Jesus name, let angel’s prostrate fall, bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.”

5. That Word is powerful.
   a. Heb. 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
   b. Rom. 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
   c. Jam. 1:21 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”

C. He has been given the privilege of Prayer.
1. It is only given to the Christian.
   a. John 9:31 “Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.”
   b. 1 Pet. 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”
2. We pray to the Father through Christ.
   a. Mat. 6:9 “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”
b. John 16:23 “And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.”

3. The blessings coming from prayers.
   a. There are many side benefits of prayer.
      (1) Brings us closer to God and those for whom we pray.
      (2) Removes anxiety.
         (a) 1 Pet. 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”
         (b) Phi. 4:6 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”
      (3) Gives us peace; Phi. 4:7 “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
   b. God answers our prayers.
      (1) Mat. 7:7 “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”
      (2) 1 John 3:22 “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”
      (3) 1 John 5:14 “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:”
   c. Jam. 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

D. He has been given the forgiveness of sins.
   1. Forgiveness of sins comes through Jesus Christ.
      a. Eph. 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
      b. Col. 1:14 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”
   2. Since forgiveness of sins comes through Christ, we must be in Christ to receive this blessing.
      a. Rom. 6:3-4 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
      b. Gal. 3:26-27 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
      c. This baptism based upon our faith, repentance and confession of our faith in Christ.
   3. We thus, have no condemnation, as opposed to the world who live under condemnation.
      a. Rom. 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”
      b. Rom. 4:6-8 “Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.”
      c. 1 John 1:7-9 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
E. He has been given the promise of Heaven.

1. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

2. John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

3. 2 Tim. 4:7-8 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

4. Rev. 14:13 "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."


A. An Undivided Heart.

1. God expects the Christian to be completely devoted to Him.
   a. Mat. 6:22 “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.”
   b. Phi. 3:13 “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before”

2. No one can be successful when he is divided.
   a. Jam. 1:8 “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”
   b. Mat. 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

3. That single mindedness must be directed toward God.
   a. 1 Kin. 18:21 “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”
   b. Ecc. 12:13-14 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”
   c. Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
   d. Phi. 3:14 “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

4. Notice God’s reaction when we are divided
   a. Mat. 10:37-38 “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.”
   b. Rev. 3:15-16 “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”

B. A Holy Life.

1. God is holy.
   a. Psa. 111:9 “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.”
b. Psa. 145:17 “The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.”
c. Isa. 6:3 “And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”
d. Rev. 4:8 “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

2. God expects man to be holy.
   a. 1 Pet. 1:15-16 “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”
   b. Eph. 1:4 “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”

3. Application of holy:
   a. Meaning of holy:
      (1) In the Old Testament God commanded altars to be built off the ground, so they were built on stilts or legs. God referred to these altars as holy.
      (2) Thus the word holy has two applications in the scriptures.
      (3) Free of sin
      (4) Dedicated or consecrated.
      (5) When holy is used in reference to God or man, it has both of these applications.
      (6) When holy is used in reference to objects or things it only has the application of dedicated or consecrated.
   b. With reference to God:
      (1) He is free of sin; 1 John 1:5 “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
      (2) He is separate from and cannot associate Himself with sin; Hab. 1:13 “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?”
   c. With reference to man:
      (1) He must become freed from his sin.
         (a) This freedom from sin comes by Jesus and our obedience to Him.
         (b) Mat. 1:21 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”
      (c) Our obedience involves:
         (i) Upon hearing the word; belief.
            a) Rom. 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
            b) Acts 16:31 “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”
         (ii) Repentance from sin; Acts 17:30 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”
         (iii) Confession of our faith; Rom. 10:10 “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
(iv) Immersion in water for the forgiveness of our sins; Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

(2) He then is to live separate from sin; 2 Cor. 6:14, 17 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?... 17Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”

(3) He is to be dedicated to God.

C. Active Service.

1. Service directed to God.
   a. Mat. 4:10 “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”
   b. Rom. 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”
   c. Rom. 6:13 “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

2. Service directed to our fellow man.
   a. Matt. 20:26-28 “But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: 28Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”
   b. Mat. 25:31-46
   c. John 13:15 “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.”
   d. Jam. 1:27 “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”
   e. This will include such things as: visiting shut-ins, mowing a widow’s lawn, taking a meal to a sick person, writing a note of encouragement to someone discouraged or to a missionary, helping the needy, and a thousand and one other things.

D. Faithful Stewardship.

1. We must realize that God owns all things and allows us to use what we have.
   a. Psa. 50:10-12 “For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. 11I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. 12If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.”
   b. 1 Chr. 29:14 “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.”

2. We must faithfully use that which God has given us, be faithful stewards.
   a. 1 Cor. 4:2 “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”
   b. 1 Pet. 4:10-11 “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”
3. Some applications of being a faithful steward.
   a. Time.
      (1) Eph. 5:16 “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”
      (2) Col. 4:5 “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”
   b. Abilities.
      (1) Parable of the talents (Mat. 25:14-30, note verse 15: Mat. 25:15 “And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.”)
      (2) Rom. 6:13 “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”
   c. Money.
      (1) Mat. 6:19-20 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:”
      (2) Part of faithful stewardship with our money is demonstrated in our contribution.
         (a) 1 Cor. 16:2 “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
         (b) 2 Cor. 8:1-5 “Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. 3For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; 4Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.”
         (c) 2 Cor. 9:6-7 “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”
      (3) Our contribution on Sunday is only part of being a good steward of money.
   E. Faithful Teaching.
      1. The religion of Christ is a teaching religion.
         a. John 6:44-45 “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 45It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”
         b. Eph. 4:20-21 “But ye have not so learned Christ; 21If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:”
      2. Thus, we must teach.
         a. Mat. 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
         b. 1 Cor. 1:21 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
3. We must teach God’s Word.
   a. Isa. 8:20 “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”
   b. Jon. 3:2 “Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.”
   c. Mark 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
   d. 2 Tim. 4:2 “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

4. We must be faithful to God in that teaching.
   a. Jer. 23:28 “The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD.”
   b. 2 Tim. 2:2 “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

Conclusion: God has been very good to each of us. He has given us great blessings, resources. We have been given much. The result is that much will be required of us. Have we given to God that which is due Him? Have you become a Christian and lived as a Christian should and done the things God requires of you?