

GIVING (II)

TEXT: 1 Cor. 16:2.

INTRODUCTION:

A. Review:

1. Money and giving are Bible subjects.
2. Failure to give indicates.

B. We want to continue in our study of giving.

C. Many think we should give 10% as they did in the Old Testament. But the New Testament does not tell us that.

1. The average church member contributes between 1.5% and 2.5% of his total income specifically to the Lord's work.
2. Nearly half of the total contributions to charity in the U.S. comes from households with incomes below \$45,000
3. Personal income Americans gave to charity last year: Poorest households: 5.5%. Wealthiest households: 2.9%

D. The boy asked his dad why he gave \$20 in church. Then he asked why he gave the waitress some money 20% tip. Do we like her more than we like God?

BODY:

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING.

A. 1 Cor. 16:2 gives us the answers to many questions.

1. when should we give? "Upon the first day of the week."
 - a. Greek says, "Upon the day of every week."
 - b. Acts 20:7 says the early church met for worship then.
2. Who should give? "Each one of you."
 - a. that makes it personal.

b. Good to let children give some of their money. J.D. Rockefeller said, "I never would have been able to tithe (on) the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed (on) my first salary, which was \$1.50 per week."

3. What should I do? "Lay by in store" "put something aside."

4. How much should I give? "As he may prosper." Some Quotes:

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.

C.S. Lewis.

J.L. Kraft, head of the Kraft Cheese Corporation, who had given approximately 25% of his enormous income to Christian causes for many years, said, "The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord."

a. Some say "I don't know how much I have been prospered."

b. Do they try that with the IRS?

c. Giving as he has prospered is giving according to one's ability. Acts 11:29.

d. Cannot always tell how much one has prospered by his pay check.

(1). One man has no bills and no children.

(2). Next man has wife and five children and bills.

5. Why should I give? "That there be no collections when I come." The money would be on hand when the need comes up.

B. We Are To Be FAITHFUL as STEWARDS.

1. Steward-one who is trusted with another's goods.

2. All things belong to the Lord.

a. Ps. 24:1a "The earth is the Lords and the fullness of it.."

b. 1 Cor. 10:26.

3. We are Gods by right of creation.
4. We are Gods by right of providential care- Matt. 6:25-30.
5. If we are Gods then everything we have is His.
6. 1 Tim. 6:7 "We brought nothing into this world and it's certain we can carry nothing out."
7. God judges what we give by what we keep. -G. Mueller.

C. We Are Given An Example Of How To Give: The Macedon Church 2 Cor. 8:1-5.

1. They were in deep poverty but rich in giving - 8:2.
2. They gave "beyond their power" and "freely." 8:3.
3. They besought Paul to accept their gift. 8:4.
4. They gave themselves to the Lord first- 8:5.

D. Our giving is to BE:

1. 2 Cor. 9:7.
 - a. as we purposed in our heart.
 - b. it is to be cheerful.
 - c. not grudgingly.

2. Not to be done sparingly- 2 Cor. 9:6.

II. MOTIVES FOR LIBERALITY: (Why should I give a lot?)

A. Acts 20:35 "More blessed to give than to receive."

1. Lk. 6:38 how we give is how we will be given to.
2. 2 Cor. 9:6 "He who sows sparingly will also reap ..."
3. Prov. 11:25 "The generous soul will be made rich and he who waters will also be watered himself."
4. You cannot out give God. The more you give the more you get. Try it and see. Mal. 3:10. NIV **Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be**

food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

III. MOTIVES.

B. For our Spiritual Growth.

1. Giving makes us God like- Jn. 3:16.
2. It gives us the joy that comes from obedience to God- 2 Cor. 8:7.
3. Shows how much we love God- 2 Cor. 8:8.
4. Helps keep us from being covetous.
 - a. Matt. 6:19-21.
 - b. Lk. 12:13-21 Parable of the rich fool.

C. Makes Possible the saving of souls.

1. Hire the preacher- 1 Cor. 9:13-14.
2. Train men to preach.
3. Clean place to worship.
 - a. Heat and light bill.
 - b. Insurance, etc.
4. Neglected or orphaned children.
5. Care for sick.
6. Help burn outs, flood hurricane.
7. Flowers for bereaved.

E. Investment in a better community and nation. If the world is so bad in spite of the influence of Christianity, what would it be without it???

CONCLUSION:

A. How does your giving measure up?

B. How does our gifts to God compare with the gift God gave us?

1. Jn. 3:16.

2. Would you give your child for the world's worst sinner?

C. GOD is not interested in our money ONLY, He wants all of us.

D. Accept God's gift to you of salvation.

1. Rom. 6:23.

2. Rom. 6:3-8.