

## GIVING (I)

TEXT: ACTS 4:32-35 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. We have been studying the acts of worship.
- B. Man has devised many ways in which to "Worship" God. Man says, "My worship to God is.."
- C. We are concerned about the kind of worship that God has authorized in His word.
- D. For the past few weeks we have been studying prayer and teaching.
- E. Now we want to turn to a study on the subject of giving.
- F. GIVING HAS BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD IN THE PAST.
  - 1. A friend of mine told me the story of one boy who told on another boy for taking a cracker and grape juice w/o paying.
  - 2. Many have looked at giving as "paying the preacher for his performance."
  - 3. Still others view giving as "paying their dues for membership and privileges, just as in a club.
- G. SOME OBSERVATIONS on giving before we start.
  - 1. Giving seems to be a "ticklish" subject for some. Preachers are often accused of "meddlin" when they preach on giving. It ceases to be a "ticklish" subject when people understand the true meaning and purpose of giving.
  - 2. God has not left the financing of the greatest work on earth to foolish human schemes nor to chance. God's plan is a well ordered design. It is perfect, simple and workable.
- I. MONEY AND GIVING ARE BIBLE SUBJECTS.
  - A. In every dispensation (age) men have been taught to give or sacrifice to God.

1. Gen. 4:3-5- Cain and Abel **“And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.”**

2. After the flood Noah- Gen. 8:20-21 **Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done..**

3. The Lord knows what people give and why they give.

a. Christ watched- Lk. 21:1-4 And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."

b. God knew about the giving (non-giving) of Ananias and Sapphira- Acts 5:1-11.

B. The New Testament is full of teaching about earthly possessions. Every Christian should want to learn about the Lord's will on giving.

C. The Lord Has An Interest In My Money.

1. Not that He needs it but that I need to give it.

2. God Is Interested In How I Obtain Money.

a. Must not obtain it by fraud or deceit or any dishonest means.

b. Must not use immoral means even though they might be legal i.e. abortion, making xxx, tobacco, etc.

c. The Lord has taught that I must obtain my money by honest toil.

3. Then God Is Interested In My Attitude Toward My Material Possessions.

a. I must not love money- 1 Tim. 6:10 **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows..**

b. I must not be covetous- Col. 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

c. I must not put my trust in money- 1 Tim. 6:17-18 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,

d. We must have the attitude of a steward- Lk. 16:10-12 "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?"

#### 4. The Lord Is Interested In What I Do With My Money.

a. I may squander it, hoard it, or use it the way the Lord desires.

b. To be pleasing to God I must use my Money the way He would have me to.

(1). support the work of the church.

(2). support myself and my family.

(3). pay taxes, so we might have government.

(4). help the poor.

c. We will look at these in more detail later.

## II. FAILURE TO GIVE INDICATES:

A. Sometimes it indicates a lack of teaching.

B. It may show a lack of faith in God and His word.

C. It may indicate a lack of interest in benevolent work.

D. A lack of a cooperative spirit.

1. 2 Cor. 6:1. **We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.**

2. "They" instead of "Us."
- E. It may indicate that the giver is a poor investor.

1. In earthly things: some make more money and have less.
2. Maybe s/he is investing in the wrong things- Matt. 6:19-21 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

F. One may be a lover of his money more than a lover of God.

1. The Bible calls this covetousness which is idolatry.
2. 1 Tim. 6:10 **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows..**
3. Col. 3:5 **Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry..**
4. These will not inherit the kingdom of God.

G. Shows a lack of interest in the evangelistic work of the church- Mk. 16:15-16 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

H. SHOWS A LACK OF GRATITUDE ON YOUR BEHALF

1. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
2. 1 Jn. 4:19 "We love Him because He first loved us"
3. Rom. 5:6-9 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
4. We come in contact with His blood at baptism. Rom. 6:3-8 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness

of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

5. Phil. 2:5-11 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

6. Song No. 86 "I Gave My Life For Thee."