

## Giving – an Act of Worship

Scripture Text: 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Out of all the acts of worship, this one frequently seems to be people's least favorite act – yet it carries the same weight behind it as the other acts (all are equal in God's eyes).

The story is told of a man that visited a local congregation for the first time and heard a sermon on giving. He did not come back for a year-and-a-half later; the sermon on his return visit was on giving by request of the elders. This visitor left angry claiming, "all they every talk about here is wanting your money!"

Sadly, giving usually ranks high on the list of over-looked topics for preaching because of the general reaction of the audience. Not today, we will examine what the Scripture says and see if we can continue to have a good attitude around giving.

### I. Examples of Giving in the Bible

- A. Philippi church – Philippians 4:15-18
  - 1. No one else would financially support Paul.
  - 2. This congregation's support is still talked about 2,000 years later.
- B. Corinth church – 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
  - 1. "Hallmark passage"
  - 2. Paul was gathering funds to take to Jerusalem; commanded to take up weekly so when he came people would not have to scramble to support effort.
  - 3. Also commanded to the churches in the region of Galatia.

### II. Why Do We Give?

- A. 2 Corinthians 9:7 – cheerfully because God loves a cheerful giver! Words of Jesus only found here – He is looking inwardly. We see this with the selection of David as king, 1 Samuel 16, and the widow's mites, Luke 21.
- B. 2 Corinthians 8:8 – our giving is proof of our love for God and His church
- C. He is concerned with our attitude over the amount. Old Testament specified a "tithe" or 1/10; we are really commanded to give more today.
- D. The more we give, the more we get back from God – either here or in the next life!
- E. What does our contribution go towards? (just a few line items)
  - 1. Aiding the poor (buying food/hotel/gas/water/electric)
  - 2. Supports the staff of the congregation (minister/secretary; Luke 10:7 laborer is worthy of his hire)

3. Upkeep on the building (electricity/internet/water/gas/paint/yard maintenance/taxes/insurance)
4. Teaching aids (books/Bibles; I would know, I worked 3.5 years at DeHoff Christian Bookstore)
5. Communion supplies
6. Food at meetings/youth events/other times needed
7. Money is needed in this world to do just about anything, sadly.

### **III. How Do We Give?**

- A. Romans 12:8 - liberally
  1. The only way of liberalism that God approves!
  2. God's people are characteristically conservative, Psalm 119:97. Liberals hate laws, yet God's people love His Laws.
- B. 1 Corinthians 16:1 – as we have prospered
  1. We are commanded to give of our means in an appropriate manner.
  2. As we take new jobs, salaries, etc., our giving should reflect this new prospering in our lives.
  3. Stepping on toes statement: brethren, if we are giving the same amount we gave a decade ago as we have moved up in the world, we are shortchanging God! He is always the One that gives the increase, 1 Cor. 3:6.

Now that we've studied giving, how do we give? Should we give more? Money, time, resources?

\*\*Every time a sermon on giving is preached, someone always thinks, "I'll show him! I won't give today because he has made me mad/stepped on my toes/other excuse." By not giving, you are **not** spiting the preacher, the elders, the deacons – you are spiting God!

I would hate to stand at the Judgment with the Lamb's Book of Life and my Book of Life opened and have to answer to my Creator why I did not give as I should have given!

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