

Why Do We Give Financially in Worship?

The Stewardship of Giving

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

A. Lesson Texts:

1. **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** – “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:
 - 2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”
2. **2 Corinthians 9:7** – “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

B. Definition of Giving:

1. Wrong definition: Transferring to the Lord some of my money.
2. Right definition: Transferring to the Lord some of His money . . . Stewardship.

C. The question “How much should I give?” is probably intended to be “How little can I give and still go to Heaven?”

1. Perhaps the least-liked of all subjects to studied in a Bible class or preached about from the pulpit.
2. Stewardship is one of the most important subjects in the Bible . . . And the giving of our financial means is a major part of our stewardship before God.

D. God asked this question through His prophet Malachi? “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.

9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation.

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,’ Says the LORD of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.’” **Malachi 3:8-10**

E. In the New Testament an average of one out of every six verses has to do with giving.

F. This is not a popular subject for many reasons perhaps. A major reason: People do not want to give God what is precious to them (money) because they have not given to God what is most precious to Him . . . themselves . . . their souls.

G. Let’s examine together this all-important part of our stewardship.

GIVING AS A PART OF OLD TESTAMENT STEWARDSHIP

- A. In the Old Testament, giving was specified in both the 2511-year Patriarchal Age and the 1481 Mosaical Age. The giving of one-tenth is generally associated with these two ages.
1. Abraham paid one-tenth to Melchizedek, king of Salem. Genesis 14:18-20 Hebrews 7:4
 2. In Genesis 28:22, Jacob dedicated one-tenth to Jehovah.
 3. Leviticus 27:30-34 commands Israel to give one-tenth of all possessions.
 4. Deuteronomy 14:22-27 describes a second tithe which the people were to consume in the feast at Jerusalem.
 5. Deuteronomy 14:28-29 mentions a third tithe, at least Josephus calls it a third, for the poor, etc., to be given every three years.
 5. Leviticus 25:3-4 required the Jews to rest the land every seven years.
 6. In addition, every fiftieth year was a year of Jubilee, and again all debts were forgiven.
 7. Further, there were heavy taxes laid upon the Jews.
- B. When all of this is calculated, it is estimated that from 25% to 40% of the income of a devout Jew was to be devoted to the Lord in one way or another.
- C. **Psalm 24:1** was taken seriously: “The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.”

GIVING AS A PART OF NEW TESTAMENT STEWARDSHIP UNDER THE LAW OF CHRIST.

- A. In stead of stating an exact amount, God simply lays down certain principles to guide us.
1. **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** – “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:
2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”
 2. **2 Corinthians 9:1-5** speaks of a contribution promised earlier.
 3. **2 Corinthians 8:1-5** speaks of the generosity of the Macedonian brethren.
 4. **Philippians 1:5** finds Paul thanking the Philippian brethren for sending contributions to him in Thessalonica.
 5. **Luke 12:48** – “. . . For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required . . .”
 6. **1 Timothy 6:17-19** records Paul charge to the rich to trust in God and be willing to distribute to others.
 7. In **Matthew 6:19-21**, Jesus tells us to lay up treasures in Heaven.
 8. In **Matthew 6:31-33**, our Lord tells us to seek first the kingdom of God.
 9. In **1 Timothy 6:10**, Paul say that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.
 10. In **Luke 16:10-13**, Jesus tells us that we cannot serve God and money.

11. In **1 Corinthians 4:2**, Paul said that it was required of a steward to be faithful.
 12. In **Acts 2:44-45**, the early Christians sold their possessions and gave as the people had need.
 13. In **Acts 11:27-30**, the brethren at Antioch sent financial relief to the brethren in Judea.
 14. Paul tells us in **2 Corinthians 8:1-5** that the Macedonians first gave themselves then gave of their means.
 15. Jesus said in **Luke 6:38** – “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”
 15. In **Matthew 25:14-30**, Jesus related the parables of the talents. 1 - 2 - 5
- B. In our two lessons texts, the apostle Paul pens a five part plan for giving as he writes the two recorded Corinthian letters.
1. The two texts:
 - a. **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** – “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:
2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”
 - b. **2 Corinthians 9:7** – “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”
 2. Paul’s plan can be summed up in five words, each beginning with the letter “P.”
 - a. Periodic
 - b. Personal
 - c. Proportionate
 - d. Preventive
 - e. Purposeful.
 3. Let’s examine this plan more closely.
 1. **Periodic** – “On the first day of the week.”
 2. **Personal** – “Let each one of you.”
 3. **Proportionate** – “Lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper.”
 4. **Preventive** – “That there be no collections when I come.”
 5. **Purposeful** – “As he purposes in His heart.”
- C. Paul used the churches of Macedonia as a model for giving.
- D. The giving of one’s financial means is not only a part of one’s overall stewardship, but a person’s willingness to turn loose freely and fully of the things God has given him is a test of whether he is really a Christian.
1. **2 Corinthians 8:8** – “. . . I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.”

2. How various translations render this passage:
 - a. “To test the genuineness of your affection.” 20th Century New Testament
 - b. “To prove how sterling your own love is.” Moffatt.
 - c. “To test the genuineness of your love.” Goodspeed
 - d. “Proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity also of your love.” The Revised Version
 - e. “This is one way to prove your love is real.” New Living Translation
- E. Negative marks of giving of one’s means.
 1. “Not grudgingly”
 - a. This means not out of sorrow.
 - b. Giving is not to be done out of grief or remorse.
 - c. We should never feel sorry that we gave.
 2. Not of necessity”
 - a. A Christian should not feel that he is being forced to give.
 3. Giving is not tithing.
 - a. Tithing is Jewish . . . Not Christian.
 - b. Tithing is Old Testament . . . Not under the new law of Christ.
 - c. Tithing pertained to the times of the Tabernacle and the Temple . . . Not to the Lord’s church.
- F. Positive marks in Giving of one’s means.
 1. It is done out of faith. Those who lack faith and commitment will give sparingly.
 2. It is done by liberality and bountifulness.
 3. It is purposeful. The choice of amount is made beforehand.
 4. It is to be given cheerfully. The Greek word translated cheerfulness signifies readiness of mind, joyfulness, which is prompt to do anything.
- G. Four classes of givers:
 1. The covetous person . . . Gives, but gives with regret.
 2. The un-teachable person . . . Resents any teaching about giving.
 3. The honest truth-seeker . . . Untaught on the subject, but teachable.
 4. The liberal-giver . . . Practices truth in the matter.
- H. Why should our giving exceed that of those under the Old Testament.
 1. We are not under a covenant containing the blood of bulls and goats . . . We are under a better covenant, the covenant purchased by the atoning blood of Jesus Christ.
 2. We are not under a system of works . . . We are under a system of faith.
 3. We are not under a system of tabernacles and temples . . . We are under God’s plan with the church, the kingdom of God.
 4. We are not under an earthly high priest . . . We are under a Heavenly High Priest, Jesus Christ.

5. We are not under a covenant that only rolled our sins forward . . . We are under a covenant wherein our sins can be totally removed.
- I. Our desire . . . willingness . . . and gift ought to exceed those of the Old Testament period.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Listen to these inspired words from the apostle Paul.
 1. **2 Corinthians 9:6-7** – “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”
 2. **2 Corinthians 9:10-11**- “Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,
 - 11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.”
- B. Why should we treasure the grace of giving as a part of our worship to God.
 1. It is commanded in the law of Christ.
 2. It is demonstrated and exemplified for us by the early church.
 3. It is God’s will that we do so . . . And desire to do so.
 4. We are laying up treasures in Heaven when we give to God.
 5. The work of Christ and His church is advanced.
 6. It really feels good to obey God.
- C. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**