

GIVING

Introduction

- 1) **Acts 3:6** – “what I do have I give you” – understanding the need to give
- 2) We need to think not only on the *need* to give, but about *why*, *what*, and *how* to give
- 3) Giving is a means by which those in need are helped, our faith in God is demonstrated, and the holiness of God in our lives is illustrated

I) **Why Should We Give?**

- A) *Command* (Matt. 5:42; Lk. 6:38 – will be helped in return)
- B) *More blessed to give than to receive* (Acts 20:35)
 - 1) Blesses the giver as much as, or more than, the recipient of the giving
- C) *Help those truly in need* (Acts 20:33-35; Eph. 4:28; Psa. 41:1-3)
- D) *God has given so much to us* (Acts 14:17; Jas. 1:17; Lk. 22:19-20; Rom. 8:32)
 - 1) Since God has given to us, we should freely give to serve others (Matt. 10:8)
- E) *A greater treasure to inherit* (Matt. 19:21; 1 Tim. 6:19)
 - 1) Avoid giving to be seen of men – only a temporary, selfish reward (Matt. 6:1-4)

II) **What Can We Give?**

- A) Material goods (Acts 4:34-37)
- B) Time (Lk. 10:33-35)
- C) Good deeds/fruit of talents (Acts 9:36, 39)
- D) Gospel of Christ (Acts 3:1-8ff; Rom. 1:14-15)

III) **How Does God Judge Our Giving?**

- A) **Mark 12:41-44** – example of the poor widow putting money into the treasury
 - 1) The Lord is always watching (v. 41)
 - 2) Everyone who has something to give has a responsibility to give (v. 42)
 - 3) Giving involves sacrifice, and some sacrifice more than others to give (v. 43)
 - a) “Put in *more*” – judged in proportion to sacrifice
 - 4) Amount given is not as significant to Lord as the willingness to sacrifice (v. 44)

IV) **Giving for the Work of the Church**

A) ***Divine Pattern***

- 1) 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 – collection needed for the local church to do a benevolent work
 - a) Command = First day of week, each one lay aside as prospered, common treasury
 - b) No “tithe” [10%] specified; only “as he may prosper” – deliberate choice of amount made in proportion to income increase/decrease

B) ***Purpose***

- 1) Finance the spiritual work God gave the church to do
 - a) Benevolence to needy saints (Acts 4:34-35; Rom. 15:26)
 - b) Evangelism (Phil. 4:15-16)
 - c) Edification (Acts 11:26; Acts 20:28)

C) ***Attitude***

- 1) Willingness and Faithfulness (2 Cor. 8:3-12)
- 2) Cheerfully and Bountifully (2 Cor. 9:5-7)
- 3) Glory and Thanksgiving to God (2 Cor. 9:8-15)

Conclusion

Let us freely give to others and to the Lord in a manner that would please God, not ourselves. When we realize how much God has given for us, we will understand why we are to give.