

Christian Giving

Why, Who, Where, When, How, How Much

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Introduction:

GIVING DEFINED: “to bestow, grant, offer, present”

1. **In every age men have been taught to give or sacrifice unto God.**
 - A. **The Lord evaluates our giving and He will not accept just any offering - just because we put the money in the plate does not mean that all is well between us and God.**
 - 1) **The act of giving is a fellowship or partnership with God and His saints.**
 - 2) **“Laying by in store” or “giving” is a **positive duty** of the Christian.**
 - a. **What does God see regarding our actions in giving?**
 - B. **Just as baptism is a test of faith for the unsaved, there are tests of the Christian’s faith.**
- 1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we **keep His commandments**. And His commandments are not burdensome.
- Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
3. **It is my hope and prayer that the lesson put forth on giving this morning will be one that will be absorbed into our hearts so that we will be more committed to put God first, even in this part of our life.**
 4. **I want to answer six questions concerning giving this morning.**
 - A. **Why, Who, Where, When, How, How Much**

Why Should We Give?

1. Not for God, but for His work.

A. **Evangelism** (*1 Cor 9:13-14; Phil 4:10-19; Gal 6:6-10; Matt 10:7-11*).

B. **Benevolence** (*Rom 15:25-26; 2 Cor 8:1-13; 9:1-13; 1 Tim 6:17; 1 John 3:16*).

C. **Assembly** (*Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 11:33; Heb 10:25*).

1) **The work of the church is on-going. There is a work that always needs to be done, and we never know when special situations may arise.**

2. What we have is not really our own in the first place!

A. **The earth and everything therein is the Lord's. All that we have in our possession has come from God.**

Psalms 24:1 **The earth is the LORD'S**, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

John 3:27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been **given to him from heaven**."

1 Timothy 6:17 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**.

2. For our own benefit.

A. **It proves our allegiance:**
Matthew 6:19-21, 24

B. **It proves where our heart is:**
Luke 12:15-21

C. **We are blessed by our giving:**

Acts 20:35 ".....**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**"

Who Should Give?

1. The text says: *“Let each one of you.”*
 - A. Paul emphasized the personal responsibility of every member to give of his means to the Lord.
2. It is the responsibility, duty, and privilege of EVERY Christian to give back unto the Lord.

The story is told of a little boy with a nickel in his hand, who was sitting in church beside a well dressed, dignified lady. He watched the contribution plate being passed down the pews, and became alarmed as it got nearer, because the lady next to him made no effort to get any money out of her purse to give into the treasury. Just as the plate got to her, the boy handed her his coin and said, “Here, Ma’am, put in my nickel, and I’ll crawl under the bench.” The child had been taught about his individual responsibility of giving to the Lord.

3. Giving causes us to be the happiest people on earth --- who can deny it? Who are happier--- the self-centered, selfish, or giving?

Where Should We Give?

1. Our fellowship or partnership is first and primarily with the local congregation that we have chosen to be part of.
 - A. Again, for the purpose of evangelizing, showing benevolence to the needy saints, and supporting the assembly.
 - B. The work can’t progress in this community without money from the members to do so.
 - 1) With each privilege comes an obligation. We have the privilege of being heirs to the eternal kingdom and we have an obligation to give to the local work.
 - a. We can’t pick and choose which commands to keep!

When Should We Give?

1. Again the text says: *"On the first day of the week."*
That's weekly, not weakly!

How Should We Give?

1. As purposed in our heart, not grudgingly, not of necessity, but cheerfully!

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.

- A. **Purposed:** Based upon our monthly income - what have we purposed (planned) to give back to God who provided what we have in the first place?

- 1) Do we know what bills are due during each month. Do we not make sure we set aside our money to pay them? Do we also purpose (plan) to give to God?

- B. **Not Grudgingly:** *"to give with reluctance"*

- 1) Paul was amazed to see what sacrifices some Christians made to give for the Lord's work when they themselves were suffering affliction. These Christians went beyond their power, pled for the privilege to give, and went far beyond Paul's expectation!

2 Corinthians 8:5 **they first gave themselves to the Lord**, and then to us by the will of God.

- C. **Not of Necessity:** *"what is required by social or legal compulsion."* In other words, some give because they feel that they have to rather than they WANT to!

D. **Cheerfully:** *“willing and hearty”*

- 1) Those that have this spirit in giving, God will bless both our labors and our abilities to do increased labor.

***What We Bring to God in Our Hands
Is a Reflection of
What We Bring to God in Our Hearts!***

2. **With Liberality:** *“generosity, broad-mindedness”*
3. **Sacrificially:** *“giving up of one thing for the sake of another of higher value. Represents our true love for Christ!*

Mark 12:41-44 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; *“for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”*

★ NOW – for the answer to “The Question”

How Much Should We Give?

1. Old Covenant

A. **Tithes - One tenth of seed, fruit, flocks, etc.** (Mal 3:8; Num 18:20f).

Leviticus 27:30-32

- 1) A tenth was given under the Patriarchal and Jewish dispensations. However the Law of Moses has been done away with (Heb 10:9).
 - a. Tithing is not commanded in the Christian dispensation. Instead, Christian giving is to be proportionate.

2. New Covenant

A. As we have been prospered: *"to succeed, thrive, good fortune, well off."*

2 Corinthians 9:5-6 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity **and not as a grudging obligation**. But this I say: *He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

1) Prosperity is something that can be measured.

- a. Do you think that this church is giving as she prospers?
- b. Can we say we are truly putting God first in our life while saying we first must pay this expense and then this expense and then....?

THEOPHILUS

3. Some Bible Principles to Consider:

A. Things written in the Old Testament were written for our learning (Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 10:11).

1) The people of Israel robbed God in not giving as they were required.

Malachi 3:7-8 Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts. "But you said, '**In what way shall we return?**' "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, '**In what way have we robbed** You?' In tithes and offerings.

2) How can we rob God?

- a. By not giving liberally, by giving God the leftovers. Give not from the top of your purse, but from the bottom of your heart!

B. Christians have it better than those under the Old Covenant:

- 1) Better law (Heb 7:18)
- 2) Better promises (Heb 8:6)
- 3) Better sacrifice (Heb 9:13-14)
- 4) Jesus paid the ultimate price for us (Acts 20:28)

4. **I can't tell you how much to give.** But we all need to examine ourselves truthfully before God just as we do before we partake of the Lord's Supper.

A. If you feel that you have not given back to God as he has prospered you, then be determined now to change that situation. Give to God so that His work can be fully accomplished in this local area.

Conclusion:

1. **To whom much is given, then much is required.**

Luke 12:48 "...For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

2. **It takes a personal sacrifice on our part to be a true disciple, follower, of Jesus.**

Matthew 16:24 "....If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

3. **Realize that God is interested in our motives (2 Cor 8:7-8).**

4. **Each of us will give an account to God for how we have given.**

1 Timothy 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

5. **The New Testament simply points us to the Christ who gave His all for us, and teaches us to bring in our hands whatever we find in our hearts!**

6. **Are we laying up for ourselves treasures in heaven or on earth?**

7. **Is Christ really FIRST in our life?**

