

GIVING

24 REASONS WHY I GIVE



Buddy Dano, Pastor

Divine Viewpoint

www.divineviewpoint.com

GIVING

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

Giving always expresses the principle of GRACE. The principle of GRACE says that it depends upon the character of the giver.

The person gives because of who and what he is, not because of the needy that deserve it. Often the needy are in the opposite position of deserving it. But deserving is not the issue in giving.

The issue in giving is your stability of character. Operation GRACE is the issue. GRACE oriented. The recipient is the object lesson of GRACE. You don't give because anyone earns or deserves it. The more frequently a believer gives, the more often he is reminded of the principle of GRACE. The more he is reminded of GRACE, the more he is oriented to GRACE. Giving depends upon the character of the giver, thus giving gimmicks and tithing must be avoided. **Approbation lust destroys the object lesson of GRACE.**

I. There are basically three money problems:

1. Illusions about money, the human viewpoint:

A. **Money is happiness.** This is false because the Word brings happiness.

B. **Money is security.** This is false because the only true security you have is in Christ.

C. **Money is not needed so just bum around.** This is false because money is bonafide.

2. The dangers of money:

A. The unbeliever.

1. Salvation has been paid for. **It cannot be purchased with money.**

a. 1 Peter 1:18, 19, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

b. Mark 8:36-37, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

3. Money causes the rich to put their faith in the wrong thing.

A. Mark 10:23-25, "And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto His disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

4. Money keeps the rich unbeliever from seeking salvation in the right manner, by means of God's Word.

A. Luke 16:19-21, "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores. And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores."

5. Money has no credit with God at the Last Judgment, only imputed righteousness.

A. Proverbs 11:4, 28, "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death." "He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch."

B. The believer.

1. Money can keep a believer from honoring the Lord Jesus Christ, the purpose for which he is left on this Earth. Solomon was a rich king, but his riches crowded the Lord out.

a. Ecclesiastes 5:10-20.

b. Ecclesiastes 6:2, "A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honor, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease."

2. Money can be a cause of temptation.

a. 1 Timothy 6:7-19.

3. Believers should spend their money wisely. Investigate fully and carefully before you give. Don't give to groups and organizations that send people to hell and make them feel good about it. Give money to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

a. 1 Timothy 6:8, "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

4. Believers do not give into the "storehouse treasury." The local church needs your support. But you don't only give it through the church.

a. Malachai 3:10, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse,

that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

5. Two other passages deal with the believer and his money and they are as follows:

a. James 4:13, 5:6, "Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain." "Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you."

b. Acts 5:1-10.

II. The percentage of giving.

A. In the Old Testament:

1. They gave tithes to the Levites to maintain the temple.

a. Numbers 18:21-24, "And behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. Neither must the children of Israel henceforth come nigh the tabernacle of the congregation, lest they bear sin, and die. But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they have no inheritance. But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the Lord, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance."

2. They gave tithes to the Lord's feast and sacrifices.

a. Deuteronomy 14:22-25, "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And thou shalt eat before the Lord thy God, in the place which He shall choose to place His Name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks: that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord thy God always. And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it: or if the place be too far from thee, which the Lord thy God shall choose to set His Name there, when the Lord thy God hath blessed thee: Then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose."

3. They gave 1/3 of their income every third year for the poor in Israel.

a. Deuteronomy 14:28, 29, "At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates: And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied: that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest."

ISRAEL THEREFORE TITHES 2/10ths OR 3/10ths OF THEIR INCOME.

B. In the New Testament:

1. The criterion in the Church Age is "as God has prospered."

a. 1 Corinthians 16:2, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

2. **The Bible recognizes that a Christian who doesn't provide for his family is worse than an infidel.**

a. 1 Timothy 5:8, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

TITHING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS NEVER ENJOINED.

Remember that the Mosaic Law has been set aside since the Day of Pentecost, when the Church Age began.

III. Examples of giving in Macedonia,

2 Corinthians 8:1-6.

The historical setting:

A. These are born again believers, called "brethren," in northern Greece, Macedonia. They are believer priests and they have the right to give.

B. They have given out of poverty, they had been robbed by the Roman Empire to cut down a revolt, but they still gave.

C. Paul wanted them to know, wit, the GRACE of God which was given, bestowed, upon the churches of Macedonia.

IV. The Biblical principle of giving, 24 principles.

2 Corinthians 8:2-5.

Principle 1. All the true giving is defined as mental attitude, not an overt act.

A. 2 Corinthians 8:2, "How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality."

Principle 2. Christian giving must be free from pressure and apart from coercion. Free will, volition, must operate in giving.

A. 2 Corinthians 8:3, "For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond

their power they were willing of themselves." A corrected translation for this verse is "For I bear them record that, according to their ability and over and beyond their ability of their own free will, they gave."

Principle 3. They considered it a privilege to give.

A. 2 Corinthians 8:4, "Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints." A corrected translation for this verse is: "Praying or begging us with much intreaty they constantly begged for the favor and partnership in ministering of the saints." They begged to give. Giving under pressure contradicts the GRACE of God.

Principle 4. Giving starts with self and not with money.

A. 2 Corinthians 8:5, "And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God." They were in fellowship before they gave.

THE EXHORTATION TO THE CORINTHIANS.

2 Corinthians 8:7-15.

Principle 5. Giving is GRACE, a part of GRACE orientation.

A. 2 Corinthians 8:7, "Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this GRACE also."

Principle 6. Christian giving is LOVE giving and NOT LAW giving.

A. 2 Corinthians 8:8, "I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love." We give because we want to, which is love; not because we have to, which is Lawgiving.

Principle 7. As Jesus Christ voluntarily gave Himself, we, in giving, must have the same attitude of volition, willingly.

A. 2 Corinthians 8:9, "For ye know the GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich." If you cannot give voluntarily, DON'T GIVE AT ALL.

Principle 8. Don't let past failures stop you from giving.

A. 2 Corinthians 8:10, "And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago." Certainly there are times when we fail in our giving. If so, just pick yourself up and keep moving.

Principle 9. Giving is in accordance with what you have.

A. 2 Corinthians 8:11, "Now therefore perform the doing of it: that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have." This fits in with the principle of giving as God prospers you.

B. 1 Corinthians 16:2, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

Principle 10. Even if a believer has nothing to give, it is fully accepted, provided you have a willing mind to give.

A. 2 Corinthians 8:12, "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." **The greatest test of our volition and mental attitude is our thinking concerning the giving of money.**

B. 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give: not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

Principle 11. Equality in giving.

A. 2 Corinthians 8:13-15, "For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack."

When one member of the body of Christ is unable to give, others make up for their lack so there is an equality in sustaining the local church, and other areas outside of the church.

PERSONAL COMMENDATION OF TITUS

2 Corinthians 8:16, 17, "But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you. For indeed he accepted the exhortation: but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you." He was honest and headed the delegation to collect the offering for the Jerusalem church.

PRACTICAL HANDLING OF MONEY.

2 Corinthians 8:19-22.

Principle 12. Money given to the Lord's Word should be handled orderly and honestly.

A. 2 Corinthians 8:19, 20, "And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this GRACE, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind: Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us." No pastor should handle one cent of the church's money. This is a work of administration of the deacons. The delegation in context was sent to Corinth to transport the collection. There were a number of administrators of money.

Principle 13. All receipts should be accounted for to the congregation. Designated monies should always be disbursed accordingly.

Principle 14. Both the giving and the administration of money should glorify the Lord.

FURTHER PRINCIPLES REGARDING MONEY: GIVING IN CHRISTIANITY.

2 Corinthians 9:1-15.

Principle 14. Both the giving and the administration of money should glorify the Lord.

A. 2 Corinthians 9:1, "For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you."

Principle 15. A collection, offering, or Christian giving,

should not embarrass anyone.

A. 2 Corinthians 9:3, 4, "Yet have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this behalf; that, as I said, ye may be ready: Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting."

In verse 3 "ready" is literally, prepared. If evangelistic meetings are held with unbelievers present, an offering plate should not be shoved under their nose. Salvation is the only issue to the unbeliever, not taking up an offering. All expenses of a revival should be taken care of beforetime.

Principle 16. Blessing in the Christian life results from giving to the Lord and not spending money for self-pleasure.

A. 2 Corinthians 9:5, "Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness."

B. Tithing is never enjoined in the New Testament. We have two chapters, 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 on giving. Paul was a Hebrew of Hebrews, and if it were possible to Christianize tithing, here was his chance to do so.

C. "Bounty," used twice, is literally, blessing. Paul calls their giving a blessing.

D. Tithing is a Law principle. There is not a fixed standard except GRACE. A fixed standard in giving denies the whole principle of GRACE, prospering.

1. 1 Corinthians 16:2, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

E. Tithing is mentioned in the Gospels as an historical incident, but the Lord Jesus Christ condemns it.

1. Matthew 23:23, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

2. Luke 11:42, "But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." It is mentioned in a very derogatory manner.

Principle 17. The more you give, the more you receive back.

A. 2 Corinthians 9:6, "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." This is the principle of Proverbs 11:24, 25, "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself." Here is an example, of the farmer planting a seed. The more he sows the more he harvests.

Some believers claim that God blesses them because they tithe. This is false. **GOD BLESSES BECAUSE ONE'S MENTAL ATTITUDE IS RIGHT, AND YOU**

KNOW THE PRINCIPLE OF GRACE GIVING.

Principle 18. Giving is a mental attitude.

A. 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give: not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." "Cheerful" is HILASTERION in the Greek, which many translate as hilarious. But that is not correct. That would be a transliteration. The meaning of the Greek word is "mentally stimulated."

Principle 19. God's Divine essence guarantees these things.

A. 2 Corinthians 9:8, 9, "And God is able to make all GRACE abound toward you: that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad: He hath given to the poor: His righteousness remaineth for ever)." His sovereignty and immutability back up the doctrine on GRACE giving.

Principle 20. The more money you give as a believer, the more money God supplies so you can keep on giving.

A. 2 Corinthians 9:10, "Now He that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness." God provides the seed in the first place. He is in it all the way.

Principle 21. Giving results in enrichment.

A. 2 Corinthians 9:11a, "Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness..." "Bountifulness" means blessing. The more faith you exercise, the more enrichment you receive, which are all non-meritorious actions.

Principle 22. Biblical giving results in thanksgiving expressed and glorification of GRACE.

A. 2 Corinthians 9:11b-13, "Which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not

only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God: Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subiection unto the Gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men.” Biblical giving is a testimony of the GRACE of God.

Principle 23. Giving also stimulates prayer, love and admiration of GRACE in you.

A. 2 Corinthians 9:14, “And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding GRACE of God in you.” “Long” is a present tense.

Principle 24. The example of Christ.

A. 2 Corinthians 9:15, “Thanks be to God for His Unspeakable Gift.”

B. I can never approximate what Jesus Christ gave me in salvation. He is the Unspeakable Gift. No words can describe it. He gave Himself. The cross serves as an example of the illustration to greater giving.

C. True Biblical giving is the result of occupation with Christ. It is sacrificial giving, not tithing. **It is gratitude to Him on the basis of Who and What He is.**

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