

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING OUR GIVING

Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Giving is a New Testament subject; it is an act of worship, and many times it is a neglected subject.
2. It is an important subject because the Lord's work cannot be properly carried out without proper GIVING.
3. Many times, members of the church don't like the subject of GIVING because it bothers their conscience.
4. The Bible has much to say about material things and our relationship to them.
5. We can only learn these truths by studying them.
6. The first lesson we all need to learn that will help our GIVING is:

I. GOD OWNS THE WORLD AND EVERYTHING IN IT.

- a. The fulness of the earth is the Lord's . . .
 - i. *"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein"* – Psa. 24:1
 - ii. *"For the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof"* – I Cor. 10:26.
 - iii. God gives us the power to get wealth – Deut. 8: 17 – 18.
 - iv. Beast, cattle, and the fowls are God's – Psa. 50: 10 – 12.
 - v. *"the silver is mine, the gold is mine, saith the Lord of Hosts"* – Hag. 2:8.
- b. Man brought nothing in the world, and he can carry nothing out – I Tim. 6:7.
- c. David said, *"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee"* -- I Chron. 29:14– So it is with us today.
- d. We are stewards of God over the material things we have in our possession – I Cor. 4:2; Luke 16: 9 – 12.

II. GOD DEMANDS THE BEST IN OUR SERVICE TO HIM.

- a. Israelites had to bring Him *"a sheaf of the firstfruits"* of their harvest – Lev. 23:10.
- b. We must put the kingdom FIRST – Matt. 6:33.
- c. God demands the best of our:
 - i. LOVE – Matt. 22: 37 – 38.
 - ii. LABORS – Mark 10: 28 – 30.
 - iii. LOYALTY – Luke 9: 57 – 62.
 - iv. GOODS – I Cor. 16: 1- 2.

III. ONE NEVER DOES GIVE WITHOUT BEING BLESSED FOR IT BY GOD.

- a. Acts 20 :35
- b. God's law of man reaping what he sows – Gal. 6: 6 – 9.
- c. Give a cup of cold water; receive a reward – Matt. 10:42.
- d. *"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days"* –Eccl. 11:1.

- e. God multiplies your seed sown – 2 Cor. 9:10.
- f. God is able to make all grace abound toward you – 2 Cor. 9:8.
- g. It is fruit that abounds to our account – Phil. 4:17.
- h. Give and it shall be given unto you – Luke 6:38.
- i. Seek first the kingdom of God – things added – Matt. 6:33.
- j. Give and lay up in store a good foundation against the time to come – I Tim. 6:19; Matt. 6:19 – 20.
- k. David said he had never seen “*his seed begging bread*”—Psa. 37:25.
- l. Giving pleases God – Heb. 13:16; 2 Cor. 9:7.

IV. EVERY CHRISTIAN MUST GIVE THREE THINGS:

- a. SELF – 2 Cor. 8:5; Rom. 12:1 – 2.
- b. SERVICE – Phil. 2:12; I Cor. 15:58; Rom. 1:1; Tit. 1:1; Rom. 6:18, 22.
- c. MONEY – I Cor. 16:1 – 2.
- d. If I am not willing to give SELF, SERVICE, and my MONEY, I can't be a servant of Christ.

V. THE RIGHT WAY TO GIVE:

- a. Give as PROSPERED – I Cor. 16:1 – 2.
- b. Give WILLINGLY – 2 Cor. 8:12.
- c. Give CHEERFULLY – 2 Cor. 9:7.
- d. Give SELF – 2 Cor. 8:5.
- e. ABOUND in giving – 2 Cor. 8:7 – (to abound is to excel).
- f. PURPOSE in heart – 2 Cor. 9:7.
- g. EQUALITY in giving – 2 Cor. 8:13 – 14.
- h. Give BOUNTIFULLY – 2 Cor. 9:6; Luke 6:38.
- i. Give with LIBERALITY – Rom. 12:8.
- j. Give SACRIFICIALLY – Rom. 12:1; Heb. 13:16; Acts 24:17.
 - i. A true sacrifice is given in love and there is self-denial in sacrifice.
 - ii. The poor widow – Mark 12:41:44.
- k. We are to first give self – 2 Cor. 8:5.

VI. THE WRONG WAY TO GIVE:

- a. GRUDGINGLY – 2 Cor. 9:7.
- b. Of NECESSITY – 2 Cor. 9:7.
- c. SPARINGLY – 2 Cor. 9:6.
- d. Of COVETOUSNESS – 2 Cor. 9:5.
 - i. Not to be wrung out of people or forced out.
- e. Of VAIN-GLORY – Matt. 6:1 – 4; Acts 5:1 – 11.
- f. WITHOUT LOVE – I Cor. 13:3.
- g. DECEITFULLY – Acts 5:1 – 11.
 - i. Pretending one is liberal when he is not.

VII. CONCLUSION

- a. It is my prayer that this lesson will help all of us see our duty better in the use of our material goods in the service of God.
- b. We can all give more than we think we can with greater faith in God.

Preached at Hebron Lane