

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING OUR GIVING

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INTRODUCTION

1. Many times, the subject of Giving is neglected in our preaching.
 2. Many members of the church don't like the subject of Giving because it bothers their conscience.
 3. We can be lost for failing to use our material things as we should!
 4. The Bible has much to say about material things and the danger of misusing them.
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- I. **Warnings Against the Wrong Use of Material Possessions:**
 - a. Warning about the "desire to be rich" and "the love of money" – I Tim. 6: 9, 10; Prov. 28:20.
 - b. Warning about the "deceitfulness of riches" – Matt. 13:22.
 - i. Affects Character – I Tim. 6:17
 - ii. Less dependence on God.
 - c. Warnings about Covetousness – Luke 12:15; Col. 3:5; I Cor. 5: 9,10.
 - i. The Lord abhorreth Covetousness – Psa. 10:3.
 - ii. Acts 20:33
 - II. **Examples of Those Who Misused Material Possessions.**
 - a. The rich man in Luke 16: 19 – 31.
 - b. Ananias and Sapphira – Acts 5: 1- 11.
 - c. The rich young ruler – Mark 10: 17 – 22.
 - d. The rich fool – Luke 12: 13 – 21.
 - III. **Our Relationship to Material Things:**
 - a. *"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out"* – I Tim. 6:7; Eccl. 2: 18 – 19.
 - b. We can acquire nothing in this world without God's help – Deut. 8: 17 – 18.
 - c. What we do acquire belongs to God – we are only stewards – I Cor. 10:26; Psa. 24:1; Hag. 2:8; Psa. 50: 10 – 12 – *"The silver is mine, and the gold is mine"*
 - i. Stewards must be faithful – I Cor. 4: 1 – 2; Luke 16: 9 – 12.
 - d. We give to God only what God has given us – I Chron. 29:14.
 - IV. **God Demands the Best in Our Service to Him.**
 - a. We must put the Kingdom first – Matt. 6:33.
 - b. God demands the best of our:
 - i. Love – Matt. 22: 37 – 38
 - ii. Labors – Mark 10: 28 – 30; Phil. 2: 12
 - iii. Loyalty – Luke 9: 57 – 62
 - iv. Goods – I Cor. 16: 1, 2; 2 Cor. 8: 1 – 5.
 - V. **One Never Gives Without Being Blessed for it By God:**
 - a. Jesus said, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive"* – Acts 20: 35.
 - b. Give *"a cup of cold water"* – receive a reward – Matt. 10 : 42.
 - c. *"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days"* – Eccl. 11:1.
 - d. God is able to make all grace abound toward you – 2 Cor. 9:8.
 - e. God multiplies the seed you sow – 2 Cor. 9:10.
 - f. It is fruit that abounds to our account – Phil. 4:17.

- g. *"Give, and it shall be given unto you";* -- Luke 6:38.
- h. *"Seek first the kingdom of God . . . all things shall be added unto you"* – Matt. 6:33.
- i. Give and lay up in store a good foundation against the time to come – I Tim. 6:19; Matt. 6: 19 – 20.
- j. David said he had never seen *"his seed begging bread"* – Psa. 37:25.
- k. Giving pleases God – Heb. 13: 16; 2 Cor. 9:7.

VI. The Right Way to Give:

- a. First, give yourself to the Lord – 2 Cor. 8: 5.
- b. Give as prospered – I Cor. 16: 1, 2; Acts 11: 29
- c. Give willingly – 2 Cor. 8:12.
- d. Give cheerfully – 2 Cor. 9:7.
- e. Abound in giving – 2 Cor. 8: 7 – to "abound" is to excel.
- f. Purpose in heart – 2 Cor. 9:7.
- g. Give Bountifully – 2 Cor. 9:6; Luke 6:38.
- h. Give with Liberality – Rom. 12: 8 NKJV
- i. Give Sacrificially – Heb. 13:16.
 - i. The poor widow – Mark 12: 41:44.

VII. Why Men Do Not Give Liberally

- a. A lack of teaching:
 - i. Preachers, parents, Bible class teacher do not do enough teaching on this subject.
- b. Selfishness and Personal pleasure:
 - i. Often members spend more each week for personal pleasure than they give to God.
 - ii. *"Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God"* – 2 Tim. 3: 5.
- c. False Pride and Extravagance:
 - i. Keeping up with the neighbors
 - ii. Nothing left for God.
- d. Poor Management:
 - i. The average man makes more than just a living – Eph. 4:28.
 - ii. We are to maintain good works for necessary uses – Tit. 3:14.
- e. Stinginess and love of money:
 - i. I Tim. 6: 9 – 10
 - ii. Eph. 5:5
- f. Lack of love for God -- we don't rob those we love – Mal.3:8

VIII. CONCLUSION

- a. The consequences of failing to give liberally:
 - i. The church is robbed of progress and growth.
 - ii. Many go without the gospel who would otherwise hear it.
- b. Preachers are robbed of adequate support – I Cor. 9:14.
- c. We rob ourselves – Acts 20: 35.
- d. We rob ourselves of salvation:
 - i. There is not place in heaven for the dishonest – Acts 5: 1 – 11; Rev. 21: 8, 27.
 - ii. The person who robs God cuts himself off from heaven.
- e. Are you here and out of Christ??

- f.** Won't you obey the gospel now?
- g.** Are you here and an erring child of God?
- h.** Won't you come now?

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