



SCRIPTURAL GIVING CANNOT BE WRONG

By BOND STOCKS

The most obvious reason why it cannot be wrong to give on the first day of the week is the simple fact that God has commanded us to give at that time. (I Corinthians 16:1,2).

It is the mission of the Lord's church to convert sinners, strengthen Christians and minister to the needs of humanity. Money is required to do this work. It has pleased God to ordain that this money be raised by "taking a collection" on the first day of the week.

1. Scriptural giving is voluntary. (II Corinthians 9:7.) There is to be no compulsion, assesment, taxation. Christ's sacrifice was voluntary. (John 10:17-18.) "Where compulsion begins, giving ends." (cf II Corinthians 8:5.). The fact, however, that giving is a volutary, does not mean that it is not a binding obligation. Covetousness will destroy the soul. (I Corinthians 6:9-10).

2. Scriptural giving is a universal obligation among Christians. ". . . let everyone of you . . ." No Christian is denied the privilege. No child of God is exempt from the duty. Our poverty does not exempt us. (cf "widow's mite," "deep poverty" of Macedonians).

3. Scriptural giving is personal. ". . . lay by him in store . . ." Each individual is to give (newspaper boy, baby sitter, wife with income, etc.) If you have an income no one else can give for you.

4. Scriptural giving is periodic. "... upon the first day of the week ..." The Lord's day is hallowed by sacred memories. There is to be a constancy about our giving. (Hebrews 13:16.) "Churches cannot be operated on irregular gushes of liberality."

5. Scriptural giving is proportionate. "... as God hath prospered him ..." You are to give "according to your sense of God's goodness to you." Justice and equality is to characterize our giving. What is your sense of God's goodness to you?

6. Scriptural giving is purposeful giving. (II Corinthians 9:7.) It is not spasmodic or emotional, but planned giving. "Generous charity for a generous purpose, and from that purpose it acts, as love always acts." It is scriptural to purpose and pledge. (II Corinthians 9:5 — "aforepromised bounty.") We do not hesitate to pledge with respect to material affairs. Why should we shrink from pledging to God?

7. Scriptural giving is liberal giving. "... God loveth a cheerful giver ..." (II Corinthians 9:7) "There are those who part with their contributions as if they parted with their lifeblood. They have been wrung from them and they groan when they are gone; genuine charity acts not thus; its greatest happiness is in giving."

9. Scriptural giving is sacrificial giving. (Romans 12:1.) David refused to give to God a gift that cost him nothing. God gave his son. Christ gave his life.

10. Scriptural giving is fruitful giving. (II Corinthians 9:5-9.) Giving is not losing. (Luke 6:38.) Withholding is not gaining. (Proverbs 11:24-25.) "Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days." (Ecclesiastes 11:1.)