

## SOME THINGS WE HAVEN'T LEARNED ABOUT GIVING

Text: Acts 20:35

INTRO: It will be our purpose in this lesson to take note of several things the Bible teaches on the subject of giving--especially some things that some Christians have not learned.

### I. MANY OF US WHO TEACH & PREACH HAVE NOT LEARNED TO EFFECTIVELY TEACH ON THIS SUBJECT.

A. We often teach negatively & apologetically, esp. if there are visitors in the assembly. Radio & TV preachers, etc. But this should not cause us to apologize for teaching what the Bible teaches.

B. In our teaching we sometimes leave the impression that giving is a painful duty. We need to impart a knowledge of the joy of giving.

### II. SOME CHRISTIANS HAVE NOT LEARNED THAT GIVING IS A SIGNIFICANT PART OF OUR DUTY AS SERVANTS OF GOD.

A. Our role is one of stewardship. A steward is a person who manages or oversees the property of another. We are God's stewards.

Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks... (1 Pet 4:9-11).

1 Cor 4:1-2, Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ & stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

B. We sometimes hear the mistaken view that all that is necessary for us to give is enough to pay the utility bills, pay the preacher, maintenance on the bldg., etc. "Keeping house."

1. If the gospel gets taken into all the world in our generation, local churches will have to support it.

2. Need is only one factor in how much we should give. Our prosperity is a big factor. There is always a need for preaching, radio, tracts, newspaper, etc.

### III. SOME OF US HAVE NOT LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF PURPOSING IN OUR GIVING.

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor 9:7).

A. We should plan ahead, budget our giving. The work of the church goes on even when we are out of town--& so do the bills.

B. Our giving should not be a matter of leftovers, an afterthought. Matt 6:33

C. Some Christians haven't increased their giving in years.

### IV. SOME CHRISTIANS HAVE NOT LEARNED TO GIVE BOUNTIFULLY (GENEROUSLY).

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, & he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes... (2 Cor 9:6-7).

A. Too often folks ask, "How much do I have to give?"

B. If we are not attentive to the situation, we may spend more on personal recreation & entertainment than we do in serving God.

### V. SOME CHURCH MEMBERS HAVE NEVER LEARNED THAT OUR GIVING IS TO THE LORD.

A. When you give from your prosperity, you are not giving to the preacher. You are giving to Jesus.

I've known of some who try to "starve the preacher out." More likely to starve themselves out of heaven.

B. Congregations are responsible to use what is given in the work of the Lord. Support preachers. (This is not charity--worthy of his hire.) Help needy saints. Pay for supplies & equipment for teaching gospel, maintain worship services, etc. Not recreation, secular education, politics, etc.

VI. SOME MAY NOT HAVE LEARNED THAT THE BASIC PURPOSE OF GIVING IS NOT TO RAISE MONEY, BUT TO RAISE MEN.

A. Sectarian churches seek to raise money with bake sales, car washes, bingo games, rummage sales & indiscriminate begging. And they raise lots of money.

B. Gospel preachers & Scriptural churches are more interested in raising men from the gutters of sin & degradation than in raising money.

Let him that stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give to him who has need.  
(Eph 4:27).

CONCLUSION: John 3:16. By learning to give generously & correctly we become more God-like. No wonder Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35).

La Porte, TX, January 8, 1984

Exton, PA, September 7, 1986

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, February 28, 1993

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, March 1, 1998

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 8, 2002