

The Bible's Guide for Giving

Introduction

1. In every age men have been taught to give or sacrifice unto God.
 - A. The Lord evaluates our giving, and he will not accept just any offering.
 - 1) "Laying by in store" or "giving", is a **positive duty** of the Christian.
 - 2) What does God see regarding our actions?
2. A study of 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 should stimulate our thinking and move us to obedience.
1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Is 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Binding Today?

1. We can see that Paul's instruction in these verses was said in the form of a "command."
 - A. Today we apply 2 Timothy 4:2-5 to show how to deal with the problem of people turning from the truth. Notice what is said:
2 Timothy 4:2-5
 - 1) Even though this was originally written because people would turn from the truth in Timothy's day, we use this passage because the principle of needing to keep others from turning from the truth is just as applicable today.
 - 2) In like manner, we ought to apply the teaching of 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 even though Paul's original purpose was to deal with circumstances in his day.

- a. **The principle of needing the funds stored up for the time of distribution is just as necessary today, therefore the principle still applies.**

When? “Upon The First Day Of The Week”

1. **The first day of the week is a day of great significance in the New Testament. On that day:**
 - A. **Jesus rose from the dead.**
 - B. **The church was established.**
 - C. **The Holy Spirit was given.**
 - D. **The first gospel sermon was preached.**
2. **This was the day of assembly and worship for first century Christians. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)**

Acts 20:7 **Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together** to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

Hebrews 10:25-26 **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

- A. **Although Paul does not use the expression “the Lord’s day” as John did in Revelation 1:10, the very practices which he commanded are what led John to speak of Sunday in those terms.**

3. **Our giving should be periodic (first day of the week), habitual, regular, and systematic.**
 - A. **Giving is to be just as regular as observing the Lord's supper.**
 - 1) **Let us note the inconsistency of most denominations:**
 - a. **They will pass the collection plate at every service, any day of the week, but observe the Lord's supper only on rare occasions.**
 - b. **Why the difference? Do they feel one is more important than the other? We have the command to observe both on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).**

Who? "Let Each One of You"

1. **Paul emphasized the personal responsibility of every member to give of his means to the Lord. Each disciple must give as he or she has been prospered.**
 - A. **There has been a story told of a little boy with a nickel in his hand, who was sitting in church beside a well dressed, dignified lady. He watched the contribution plate being passed down the pews, and became alarmed as it got nearer, because the lady next to him made no effort to get any money out of her purse to give into the treasury. Just as the plate got to her, the boy handed her his coin and said, "Here, Ma'am, put in my nickel, and I'll crawl under the bench."**
 - 1) **This child had been taught about his individual responsibility of giving to the Lord.**

What? “Lay Something Aside”

1. **Our giving should be with purpose and planning.**
 - A. **It is thoughtless to spend first for ourselves, and then offer God the few dollars that we have left over.**

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- B. **When we plan our monthly budget we should put God in those plans.**
 - 1) **We all have to meet our material obligations, but let’s not crowd God out or give Him only the leftovers. This is our spiritual obligation.**
2 Corinthians 9:6-7
- C. **The word “grudgingly” carries the idea of reluctance and resentment.**
 - 1) **We should not grumble about our obligation to give. Neither should it be done out of a sense of compulsion.**
 - 2) **Sometimes men will give, not because they want to, but because they feel they “have to.” Some may even view this act of worship as a “necessary evil.”**
 - a. **This would be a woeful attitude for a Christian to have!**

How Much? "As He May Prosper"

- 1. The tithe (10%) was given under the Patriarchal and Jewish dispensations.**

Genesis 28:22 And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

Leviticus 27:30-32 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD. If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it. And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD.

- 2. However, the Law of Moses has been done away with.**

Hebrews 10:9 then He said, "BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD." He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

- A. Tithing is not commanded in the Christian dispensation.**
- B. Instead, Christian giving is to be proportionate.**
 - 1) We are under an honor system whereby we give as we have been prospered. The amount we give should be in proportion to the amount we have received.**
- C. The New Testament praises those who do give generously!**
2 Corinthians 8:1-5

3. The people of Israel robbed God in not giving as they were required.

Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, In what way have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings.

A. We should avoid falling into the same trap. How can we rob God?

1) By not giving liberally

2) By giving God the leftovers

B. Let us not give from the top of our purse, but from the bottom of our heart!

4. We should realize that every good and perfect gift comes down from our Heavenly Father. Should we not return unto him a portion of those blessings so that HIS work CAN be accomplished?

A. **Freely we have received-----Freely we should give.**

Why? "That There Be No Collections When I Come"

1. This passage deals specifically with Paul's efforts to help the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

2 Corinthians 9:8-9

Romans 15:25-27

2. The work of the church is on-going. There is work that always needs to be done, and we never know when special situations may arise.

A. Regular giving is necessary so that the church might be ready to fulfill her God-given mission.

B. We should give so that there will be no deficit, no lack, so that no work would be left undone.

Conclusion

1. God is interested in our motives.

2 Corinthians 8:8 I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.

2. God is interested in our manner and measure of giving.

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

3. We are His by right of creation (Genesis 1:26), redemption (Ephesians 1:7), and providential care (Matthew 6:26-30).

4. We are God's stewards - responsible for what He has entrusted us.

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

A. A steward watches over and cares for the things of another.

- 1) He will have to give account to his master for how he fulfilled his duty. We are God's stewards, because in the final analysis, everything belongs to Him.

B. We shall one day give account for the way we use God's blessings. (The Rich Fool - Luke 12:15-20)

1 Timothy 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

5. Are we laying up for ourselves treasures in heaven?

6. Are we putting Christ first in our life - not giving Him the leftovers?

