

HOW TO GIVE

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss some of the Bible guidelines about our giving.
2. Giving is a part of our worship - Jn. 4:24
 - a. Giving must be according to truth - what the Bible teaches without any mixture or subtraction
 - b. Giving must also be according to spirit - the correct attitude
 - c. Giving as a part of worship is to God - the proper object of our worship
3. Subject of money is not generally a welcomed subject - often neglected subject by preachers - I'm glad this church needs money - sign of life and growth
 - a. Preach to please God not men Gal.1:10 "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."
 - b. I Tim. 4:1-4 "...preach the word..."
 - i. Preach the word about the plan of salvation & Worship - this includes our contribution
 - ii. Will not endure sound doctrine - will not tolerate
 - iii. Shall turn away from the truth - ignore it
 - iv. There are at least 1,520 references to giving in the Bible
 - c. Failing to give properly is failing to worship properly
 - i. Just as wrong and sinful as it is to worship God improperly in singing with the addition of instrumental music
 - ii. Or just as wrong as it is to abuse the Lord's Supper by adding other objects to it, like Steak and Potatoes, or omitting it altogether
4. How do we give? Not talking about cash, check or credit card

Discussion

I. GIVE TO GOD

A. Give to God

1. II Cor. 8:5 "And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."
 - a. To give self means we consecrate all to his services
 - b. When we do then He bestows the fullness of his blessings on us
 - c. Does not mean we give every cent, just as it does not mean we give every minute of our life in prayer - 1 Thes. 5:17
2. We give God the proper amount. Not what's left.

B. Give because God gave

1. Jn. 3:16 - he gave his only begotten Son
2. "We love him, because He first loved us." 1 Jn. 4:19
3. We should give to God because He first gave to us

C. We give To God not man

1. Worship is offered to God -- not man
2. Giving is to God -- the church, the body is to use that money in carrying out God's work
3. III. "I gave it to God" - Barnett
4. Give to God, because God gave to you

II. GIVE INDIVIDUALLY

- A. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."
1. Let every one of you lay by him in store = set it aside - lay aside - commit
 2. All Christians are included, not just a select few
 3. II Cor. 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."
- B. Improper ways of raising money
1. Yard Sales & Car Washes - Begging on TV or RADIO
 - a. The church is not a fund raising institution - by selling items to others
 - b. The early church did not have chariot races or sandal sales to raise money
 2. The N.T. teaches that the funds needed for the cause of Christ are to be contributed by the members of the church. It is a part of our worship to give as we have been prospered.
- C. Worship is done individually
1. No one can sing for you - No one can take the Lord's Supper for you
 2. No person can obey for another - not by proxy The reason....
- D. We will be judged individually
1. II Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."
 2. Not judged in groups but individually

- E. Give individually all through our life
 - 1. Not possible to wait until we get in better financial shape
 - 2. Not proper to wait until we retire
 - 3. Rich cannot give for all of us
 - 4. Give now - all through life - because worship is individual

III. GIVE VOLUNTARILY

- A. Willingly - voluntarily - deliberate, intentional
 - 1. II Cor. 9:7 "...as he purposeth in his heart."
 - 2. Purposeth - resolve, decide
 - 3. Not grudgingly or of necessity -- in grief or sorrow
 - 4. God wants us to give cheerfully
 - 5. Eph. 6:6-7 "Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7. With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:"
 - 6. Would you enjoy a birthday gift if it were not given freely?

- B. Old Testament Scriptures - talk about giving voluntarily
 - 1. Ex. 35:5,21,22,29 " EXOD 35:5. Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold, and silver, and brass," " EXOD 35:21. And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments. 22. And they came, both men and women, as

many as were willinghearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered offered an offering of gold unto the Lord." " EXOD 35:29. The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the Lord had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses."

2. Ex. 36:3-7 Tabernacle
3. Temple - 1 Chr. 29:9,14
4. Prov. 11:25 "The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."
5. Prov. 3:9 "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:"
6. Isa. 43:23 "Thou hast not brought me the small cattle of thy burnt offerings; neither hast thou honoured me with thy sacrifices. I have not caused thee to serve with an offering, nor wearied thee with incense."

C. II Cor. 8:8-13

D. III. Giving "Guilty Giving"

1. Out of necessity - not voluntarily or cheerfully
2. Guilty givers soon quit
3. But a cheerful giver continues to give!! And he gives...

IV. GIVE EXCEEDINGLY

- A. II Cor. 9:6 "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."
1. We reap as we sow
 2. Subject is giving
 3. Suggest that we give bountiful
 - a. Generously - used in NIV
 - b. Word means largess which means generosity, endowment
- B. How much should we give ?
1. In O.T. times they gave at least 1/10 - Lev. 27:30-33
 2. Several verses tell of other tithes which would be about 1/3 of their total
 3. Since they gave a tenth to please God we who are more abundantly blessed should not give less but more.
 - a. God did not bind the tithe on us
 - b. He left us open and free to go beyond
 - c. We should put God's part aside and not rob from Him
 4. What % do you give? 1 %, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%
 5. III. Giving "Could you live on it?" - Suppose your income was calculated on how much you gave? Could you live on your income if your contribution was multiplied 10 times? Think about it!!!
 6. What if every member gave as I do???

CONCLUSION

1. How to Give

- a. God
- b. Individually
- c. Voluntarily
- d. Exceedingly

2. Give as you would if tomorrow found your giving here all over.

Give as you would if an angel awaited your gift at the door.

Give as you would to the master if you met his loving look.

Give as you would of your substance if His hand the offering took.

3. Words found on a tombstone:

"What I spent, I had; ---- he had then while on earth

What I kept, I lost; ----- it was given to someone else

What I gave, I have." ----- he has now, treasures in heaven.

4. Mt. 6:19-21

- a. We all want to go to heaven and live there forever
- b. You can't take your money with you, but you can send it on ahead.!
- c. If we have treasures in heaven we must send them now.
- d. We cannot take them with us.

5. A happy person is one who has learned how to give and invested liberally in the Kingdom of God.

Sermon by Arthur Pigman -
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com