

GIVING AS WORSHIP

1Cor 16:1,2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Remember again what worship is and think with me about giving as worship. Worship is a feeling of respect or reverence, a frame of heart or mind, an attitude expressed in various acts or movements of the body Lk 14:10
- B. When preacher preaches on giving, many think he wants more money, not so. Responsibility to preach on giving, is like preaching on other acts of worship or anything else.
- D. Giving to God is a part of worship just as much as observance of Lord's supper, singing, praying, or teaching
- E. Help all of us if we would think about our giving as part of our worship to God not just "getting into pocketbooks".

DISCUSSION:

I. CHRISTIANS ARE STEWARDS OF GOD'S PROPERTY

- A. Man possesses nothing in the absolute sense; all belongs to God 1Chron 29:11-14
 1. The earth is the Lord's Psa 24:1
 2. God gives the power to get wealth Deut 8:17,18
- B. Stewards are accountable Matt 25:14-30; 1Cor 4:1,2;

II. MOTIVE FOR GIVING DETERMINS IF IT IS WORSHIP

- A. One can give to a particular cause (cub scouts, etc.) even to treasury of Lord's church and it not be worship!
- B. Love for God should prompt our giving
 1. Creator and giver of every gift Acts 17:24; Jas 1:17
 2. Showed his love by giving his Son Rom 5:8
- C. Love for Christ a motivating force
 1. Gave himself for us, (greatest sacrifice) 2Cor 8:8,9
 2. Can we be stingy with God who gave His best? or hold back and begrudge Christ who held nothing back from us? Note what happens when we hold back that which belongs to God Acts 5:1-11
- D. Cheerful heart 2Cor.9:6,7 Not grudging or Necessity

III. GIVING IS A COMMAND (ORDER) OF GOD 1Cor 16:1,2

- A. WHEN: Upon the first day of the week
 1. First day of special significance to Christians
 - a. Day the Lord arose Mk 16:9
 - b. Day church was established Acts 2:1-42
 - c. Day disciples met to "break bread" Acts 20:7
 2. No other day or time given for giving into a common treasury as an assembly (church)
 - a. No yard sales, pie suppers, etc to raise money
 - b. No collections during week or non-members
- B. WHY: necessary for church to do its work
 1. 1Cor 16:1,2; 2Cor 9:5 specific command for work of benevolence

- a. By inference we know treasury was used in evangelism **see chart on use of the treasury**
 - b. 1Cor 16:1,2 only passage commanding specific time for contributions, conclude it as time Lord authorized for raising funds for work of church
2. Other times when, acting as an individual Christian one may give to support the cause of Christ (Prov 19:17; Gal 6:6; Heb 13:2)
 3. Yet, must not omit responsibility in collective work of the church

IV. WHO MUST DO THE GIVING?

- A. "Every one of you" 1Cor 16:2
 1. No Christian blessed by God is exempt regardless of age, sex or marital status.
 2. If one is responsible to the Gospel, he should give in harmony with principles regulating our giving
 3. We must first give ourselves to the Lord 2Cor 8:5
 4. What we give proves sincerity or our love 2Cor 8:8
- B. Wrong attitudes toward giving
 1. "Let wealthy do the giving," Mk 12:41-44
 2. "Too many bills so cut Lord out" Matt 6:33
 3. "Out of town so no need to give" Eph 4:16

V. HOW MUCH MUST THE CHRISTIAN GIVE?

- A. "As God has prospered him" 1Cor 16:2 (proportional to our income) Malachi said offer it to governor Mal 1:8
 1. N.T. does not specify a percentage
 2. O.T. specified a tenth plus other offerings
- B. The N. T. makes a distinction between giving "sparingly" and "bountifully" 2Cor 9:6,7
- C. If every member gave proportionately as you, could the Lord's work be done. We are either generous or covetous
- D. Jews required to give a tenth (tithe), remember what the Lord said about our righteousness exceeding the righteousness of Scribes and Pharisees Matt 5:20
- D. Must not use liberty of Gospel as a release from sacrificial giving, lest we be found robbing God Mal 3:8

CONCLUSION:

- A. "Giving is not God's way of raising money; it is God's way of raising children!" Robert Harkrider
- B. We cannot buy our way into heaven but we can be so stingy as to not be allowed in.
- C. We must give as prospered because in judgement we will prosper as we have given Lk 6:38
- D. Tombstone: "What I spent I used; What I saved I lost; What I gave, I have!"