

# “Giving”

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Text: II Corinthians 8:7

Theme: To indicate the importance of liberal giving

## Introduction:

1. Only one worse subject to preach on and that being withdrawing from the disorderly
2. Not too many sermons on the subject though every book of the N.T. teaches on it.
  - a. Yet there is more said about it than for faith, repentance, confession, baptism, qualifications of elders, deacons, and the Lord’s Supper all combined.
  - b. Obviously, then, there needs to be sermons on the subject.
3. There are different ways to give - but we are discussing money in this lesson.

## Discussion:

- I. General discussion on the subject. The true nature of it
  - A. It is a grace -
    1. II Corinthians 8:7
    2. Grace - involves a spiritual quality of life which is not inherent in the natural man. Grows through the power of the Holy Spirit
      - a. Self - preservation
      - b. Need to become like God - unselfish
      - c. Need to pray to God for help. A spiritual attainment toward which every Christian should strive.
  - B. It is an act of worship -
    1. Not just some necessary evil

2. Deuteronomy 16:16,17 - the Jews were to bring offerings to their feasts in proportion to their blessings - act of worship
3. Same concept taught in the N.T.
  - a. Acts 2:42 - cf. Romans 15:26
  - b. I Corinthians 16:1,2
4. To realize it is an act of worship is to understand definite responsibility regarding the matter -
  - a. No longer a “hit and miss” proposition or “when I feel like it.”
  - b. What if our government were run this way?
  - c. God told Israel not to appear before him empty-handed
  - d. Realizing it is an act of worship will help us in our thinking about reasons for giving.
    1. Many give only for the purpose of supporting preachers and projects.
    2. The money is used in this way, yet we should understand, we are giving to God.
    3. [III. In the Lord’s Supper, we see the body and blood of the Lord - with the offering plate, maybe we should see the hand of the Lord.]
5. It is an act of love.
  - a. People support things they love and love for something can be gauged by the level of giving to it.
  - b. Love is the greatest motivating power in the world.
  - c. It is true that if we love Christ and his church we will find ourselves to be liberal givers.
    1. II Corinthians 8:24
    2. I John 3:18 (love must be accompanied by action)
    3. It seems very fitting that the offering plates should be placed on the same table as the Lord’s Supper. I John 4:19

II. Reasons for giving: [It has been said: “The God I worship doesn’t need money.”]

A. Advance the work of the kingdom

1. We live in a material world and it therefore takes money to further the spreading of the gospel
  2. Philippians 4:16,17 ; II Corinthians 11:9 (Paul was able to work miracles)
  3. Takes money to care for widows and orphans, buy Bibles, erect church buildings, etc.
  4. This reason, *ergo*, should be apparent to all.
- B. To develop spirituality in the Christian
1. In giving, we become God-like - it is a challenge to our spirituality
  2. [Ill. - Man who said - "the God I worship doesn't need money." True in one sense but this would deprive us of development of a Christ-like Spirit.]
  3. II Corinthians 9:10,11 - God promises to reward generosity with increase in the fruits of righteousness
  4. Matthew 6:21 - it will develop interest - Money is a part of life - to invest money is to invest life.
  5. Luke 16:10-12 -
    - a. Stewardship of money serves as a testing ground
    - b. If we handle our material wealth properly, we will be intrusted with the true riches of spirituality.
    - c. One does not see truly spiritual people who are stingy
  6. In giving God helps us to develop the right attitude toward money.
    - a. We are to make it our servant
    - b. It (money) can then be a blessing to us
    - c. cf. Mark 10
  7. In giving God helps us to develop the God-like quality of unselfishness
    - a. Covetousness is wholly foreign to God's way
    - b. Covetousness is a form of idolatry - Colossians 3:5
    - c. Think of the gift of God's son
    - d. [Ill. - true definition of Christianity - "Give, give, give" *13 Lessons In Christian Doctrine*, Denver Sizemore - p.98]

- e. The words “love” and “give” are inseparable terms and form the real basis of Christian living
- C. Future accountability
1. Matthew 6:27
  2. II Corinthians 5:10
  3. Hebrews 9:27
  4. God will examine everything, including our giving
    - a. He rebuked the Jews for their greed - Malachi 3:8,9
    - b. Colossians 3:5 - idolatry is a serious sin - It cost the rich young ruler his salvation (Matthew 19).
  5. Since God has done so much for us, it is hard to imagine a Christian trying to rob him.
  6. Matthew 25:23

**Conclusion:**

1. Let us be liberal givers - cheerful givers
2. Let us also give our whole lives to God

**Invitation:**

**Bibliography:**

Sizemore, Denver, *13 Lessons In Christian Doctrine*, Joplin, MO, 1975, pp. 94-99.