

CHURCH
Why GIVE & GO?



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The Church is fueled by people who volunteer their time, talents, and treasure to further the message of Jesus both locally and globally. Today we discover how we can team together to GIVE & GO.

* All Scripture is from the CSB (Christian Stand Bible) unless otherwise noted.

Why Give?

We give generously, because God has generously given to us!

Time, Talents, & Treasure

We Trust God to provide for tomorrow as we Thank God for providing today. Giving also provides to further the message of Jesus locally & globally. Here's what the Scriptures say about GIVING.

1 Corinthians 9:7-12 ⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its fruit? Or who shepherds a flock and does not drink the milk from the flock? ⁸ Am I saying this from a human perspective? Doesn't the law also say the same thing? ⁹ For it is written in the law of Moses, **Do not muzzle an ox while it treads out grain.** Is God really concerned about oxen? ¹⁰ Isn't he really saying it for our sake? Yes, this is written for our sake, because he who plows ought to plow in hope, and he who threshes should thresh in hope of sharing the crop. ¹¹ **If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it too much if we reap material benefits from you?** ¹² If others have this right to receive benefits from you, don't we even more? ¹² If others have this right to receive benefits from you, don't we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right; instead, we endure everything so that we will not hinder the gospel of Christ.

Is God really concerned about oxen? Martin Luther cleverly responded to this question by answering that the verse was obviously not written for oxen since "*oxen can't read*"!¹ The Corinthian church had provided for **others** who had served them. So Paul asks why those who first brought the gospel to them and so heavily invested in them, don't **have this right to receive benefits...even more.** Obviously the answer to this is "of course."

We have not made use of this right. Paul chose to work as a tentmaker and didn't ask for anything, but Paul is not arguing that ministers should not be financially supported.

1 Corinthians 9:13 ¹³ Don't you know that those who perform the temple services eat the food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the offerings of the altar?

Whether Paul's audience was familiar with how the Jerusalem temple functioned or not, the same concept had applied to the many temples of pagan gods in Corinth. It was understood that You would take care of those who take care of you. Then Paul brings his argument to a clear conclusion:

1 Corinthians 9:14 ¹⁴ In the same way, **the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should earn their living by the gospel.**

Paul claims this is what **the Lord has commanded.** This could be found in **Matt. 10:10 & Luke 10:7** where Jesus says "*the worker deserves his wages*". If Jesus commanded this, then this is NO abuse of funds. Paul writes Timothy and gives more insight.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 ¹⁷ The elders who are good leaders are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says: *Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,* and, **The worker is worthy of his wages.**

Here too, Paul uses the same brief argument, **the worker deserves his wages.**

So, Why Give? First,

Jesus commands us to take care of those who take care of us.

This allows these leaders to use their time to pray, prepare, teach, & equip the saints to serve the world. **THANK YOU for providing for our staff,** allowing us to serve this church & community in this way!

Why Give? Second,

Jesus commands us to care for neighbors in need.

Matthew 22:37-40 ³⁷ He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the greatest and most important command. ³⁹ The second is like it: **Love your neighbor as yourself.** ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

Your neighbor could be a fellow believer (as was the case for most when this OT law was given (see Lev. 19:18). When asked the question, "*Who is my neighbor?*", Jesus answers with the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37), showing that your neighbor could be someone you have *NEVER MET*, who has a need you *CAN MEET*.

When you give to Fellowship, you are providing for ministers and ministries to impact your NEIGHBORS - people in this church and people in our community (and beyond). This year we have the potential (if we meet budget) to give more than \$43,687 for ministries totally outside of Fellowship. That's almost 13% of our entire 2019 budget, which includes:

	Mission Giving 12.9% total budget	2019 Budget
5305	Cooperative Program (4%)	13,550.00
5310	Middle Florida Baptist Assoc (1%)	3,387.00
5315	FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)	1,000.00
5330	A Women's Pregnancy Center	2,500.00
5335	Benevolence - Church Folks	1,000.00
5340	Benevolence - Community	1,000.00
5345	Christian Cooperative Ministries	500.00
5360	Fellowship Missions (4%)	13,550.00
5365	Mowing For Missions	7,200.00
	Total Mission Expenses	\$43,687.00

MOWING FOR MISSIONS (\$7,200)

1. **LATCOM** (Bolivia & Latin America, latcom.org)
2. **WORLD OUTREACH - CAMBODIA** Smith Family
3. **ARK SINGERS** (Ukraine)
4. **PASTOR MINOTT FUND** (Caiicos Islands)
5. **KENYA FUND** (Pastor Watindi)
6. **ISLEGO MINISTRIES** (Dusty Cooper)
7. **GIDEONS** (International Bible Distribution)
8. **ALASKA MISSION TEAM**
9. **TESSA ANDREWS** (Haiti)

So HOW MUCH should you give? The New Testament doesn't give a specific amount or percentage. Paul writes about providing for the needs of a sister church in Macedonia. Look at the universal principle taught here.

2 Corinthians 8:7 NIV ⁷ But since you **excel in everything**—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also **excel in this grace of giving.**

This word translated **excel** is used of **abundance, overflowing, more than enough.**² We are to be growing and overflowing in **faith, speech, knowledge, and love for others**...we are to **excel in this grace of giving.** We are to be **GENEROUS** givers. Later Paul makes another statement regarding **HOW one should give.**

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NLT ⁶ Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And **don't give reluctantly** or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who **gives cheerfully.**"

Do you give to God...**CHEERFULLY**? Do you give to Him out to demonstrate your TRUST and declare your THANKS for how He has provided for you?

🌟 **Johnny Hunt** "Some Christians are giving their lives while many Christians won't give a dime out of a dollar. How can God bless your salary when you don't allow Him to be a part of it?" - 'Whatever it Takes' Men's Conference in Perry

Will you HELP US impact Madison and beyond for the Kingdom of God...as a **cheerful giver**? Will you give consistently & generously...not because you HAVE to...but because you WANT to?

The Lord commands us to give our not only our TREASURE, but our TIME and TALENTS as well. **Your church needs more than financial funding. WE NEED YOU!** How are using your TIME and TALENTS to serve your church and beyond?

* Learn about different ways to GIVE your TIME & TALENTS next week.

Why GO?

Jesus commands us to take the message of the cross to the world.

If Jesus is your Lord, His commands aren't optional.

That message goes like this: **GOD, MAN, SIN, JESUS, JUDGEMENT.**

- Question: "Why don't you just let others believe what they want? Who are YOU to say they're wrong?"
- Response: We didn't say it, Jesus did.

John 14:6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me.**

That excludes those who don't come to God through Jesus. Jesus' disciples taught the same thing.

Acts 4:11-12 ¹¹ This **Jesus** is *the stone rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone.* ¹² There is salvation in no one else, for **there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved."**

The first followers of Jesus *ACTUALLY BELIEVED* that **all people, would experience eternal life or eternal punishment**, that would all be judged for their SIN unless call on Jesus to SAVE their souls. This is the clear teaching of the New Testament. Do YOU believe THAT? If so, then you need to answer this question: **How will they KNOW, unless we GO?**

Listen to Paul's reason for putting his life on the line and calling others to do the same.

Romans 10:13-15 NLT ¹³ For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ¹⁴ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And **how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?** ¹⁵ And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "**How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!**"

Paul & his peers aren't around to do that anymore...so who will take on this task? *Whose responsibility IS that?OURS!*

☀ **Penn Jillette** of "Penn and Teller", a self-proclaimed atheist asks, "*How much do you have to hate somebody to NOT proselytize?*" [tell them about Jesus]

FEET2FAITH

- **Let's team up to GIVE consistently and generously, with our TIME, TALENTS, & TREASURE.** Our church staff is here to help you find a place to GROW and PLUG IN.
- **Let's team up to GO share Jesus with our community at Trunk or Treat.** 1) PRAY for divine appointments and 2) show up to communicate value with a bunch of precious people from 6-8pm.