

Next!

Why not to talk about giving.

Why to talk about giving.

Giving is a path to receiving God’s blessing.

William Colgate moved to America from England and his family set up a farm. But the work was hard, and the family was still poor. And so, he decided to move to the city. His mother, a devout Baptist, gave him one piece of advice. She opened the Bible to Malachi 3:10 and read him the verse.

William Colgate, founder of Colgate Palmolive, was asked “What’s the key to your success?” He replied, “Well after coming to Christ, and entrusting my life to him, I made a contract with him, claiming this promise, ‘Him who honors me, I will honor.’ I began tithing, giving 10% of my income away, despite having very little at the start. And I kept my contract with God who began blessing me in turn.”

William’s Timeline: born in 1783, apprenticed in 1804, founded company 1806, died 1857.

Giving is an indicator.

“The last part of a man to be converted is his wallet.” – John Wesley

What We Learn About God and His People

God does not change. (vs. 6)

God is merciful towards his children. (vs. 6-7a)

God is a giver of abundant blessing to his people. (vs. 10)

Eden → Promised Land → Christ (Phil 4:19) → New Heaven and New Earth

Philippians 4:19 “My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

What We Learn About Giving

Giving is returning to God what already belongs to him. (vs. 8-9)

That’s why it’s called “robbing God.”

Giving should be proportional to your income. (vs. 10)

Definition of tithe is 10%, also look at 1 Corinthians 16:2. “...each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income...”

Giving is the only area in the Bible in which we are told to put God to the test. (vs. 10)

Giving faithfully is tied to the blessing we will receive. (vs. 10)

You can’t game God or control him; you must give cheerfully in response to your salvation.

Deuteronomy 26:5-10

OT and NT pattern of giving is the same!

OT: God gives land → people give back of the land → God gives further blessing

NT: God distributes freely to us → we give back bountifully → we reap in response.

Consider the parable of the talents and minas. (Matthew 25 and Luke 19)

God is the biggest giver because he gave his son.

Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Is trusting God with your money hard for you? Why?
2. Have you experienced misuse or manipulation before? How did this affect your ability to give?
3. Have you ever received God’s blessing in response to giving?
4. How have you committed yourself to giving to God? Is this something you can do cheerfully? Why or why not?