

Giving As God Gives – 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - *"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: 2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. 3 And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. 4 But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me."*

- I. All Christians Manage **MONEY** for the Lord.
- II. All Christians Manage **OPPORTUNITIES** from the Lord.
- III. All Christians Manage **RELATIONSHIPS** in the Lord.

I. All Christians Manage **MONEY** for the Lord. (v.1-4)

"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: 2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. 3 And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. 4 But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me."

- [This chapter deals in a very helpful way with 3 areas of "Christian Stewardship":](#) We could define Stewardship as "the use of God-given resources for the accomplishment of God-given goals." Christian Stewardship is the management of God's resources in the life of a Christian, in a way that glorifies the Lord, and accomplishes the Lord's work, the Lord's way.

"When the Creator of Heaven and earth brought you into being and placed you in this world He made, He placed you here not as owner but as a steward." - John Wesley

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER - THE 1ST BILLIONAIRE: *The very first person to reach the status of billionaire was a man who knew how to set goals and follow through. At the age of 23, he had become a millionaire, by the age of 50 a billionaire. Every decision, attitude, and relationship was tailored to create his personal power and wealth. But three years later at the age of 53 he became ill. His entire body became racked with pain and he lost all the hair on his head. In complete agony, the world's only billionaire could buy anything he wanted, but he could only digest milk and crackers. An*

associate wrote, "He could not sleep, would not smile and nothing in life meant anything to him." His personal, highly skilled physicians predicted he would die within a year. That year passed agonizingly slow. As he approached death he awoke one morning with the vague remembrances of a dream. He could barely recall the dream but knew it had something to do with not being able to take any of his successes with him into the next world. The man who could control the business world suddenly realized he was not in control of his own life. He was left with a choice. He called his attorneys, accountants, and managers and announced that he wanted to channel his assets to hospitals, research, and mission work. On that day John D. Rockefeller established his foundation. This new direction eventually led to the discovery of penicillin, cures for current strains of malaria, tuberculosis and diphtheria. The list of discoveries resulting from his choice is enormous. But perhaps the most amazing part of Rockefeller's story is that the moment he began to give back a portion of all that he had earned, his body's chemistry was altered so significantly that he got better. It looked as if he would die at 53 but he lived to be 98. Rockefeller learned gratitude and gave back from his wealth. Doing so made him whole. It is one thing to be healed it is another to be made whole.

- **Money is a sensitive issue to many Christians, but the Scripture has a lot to say about it.** The Bible offers **500** verses on prayer, fewer than **500** verses on faith, and more than **2,000** verses on money. **1/6** of the Gospels deal with money, and **1/3** of the parables address the subject of managing your finances for the Lord. In fact, **15%** of everything Jesus ever taught was on the topic of money and possessions—more than His teachings on heaven and hell combined. Jesus dealt frequently with "Money Matters" because to most people, our **Money truly matters!**

"3 conversions are necessary: the conversion of the mind, the conversion of the heart, the conversion of the pocketbook. The last is often the most difficult!" - **Martin Luther**

When you go to a doctor for your annual check-up, he or she will often begin to poke, prod, and press various places, all the while asking, "Does this hurt? How about this?" If you cry out in pain, one of two things has happened. Either the doctor has pushed too hard, without the right sensitivity. Or, more likely, there's something wrong, and the doctor will say, "**We'd better do some more tests. It's not supposed to hurt there!**" So it is when pastors preach on financial

responsibility, and certain members cry out in discomfort, criticizing the message and the messenger. Either the pastor has pushed too hard. Or perhaps there's something wrong. In that case, I say, "My friend, we're in need of the Great Physician because it's not supposed to hurt you there."

A. Managing the Lord's Money - SPECIFICALLY.

- **"Now concerning the collection for the saints...your gift to Jerusalem."** *This was a special offering and collection for the poor saints in the church of Jerusalem. These saints originally shared all things in common (Acts 2:42-47; 4:33-37), but soon became financially destitute. This was more than likely due to the famine they experienced (Acts 11:27-30), and the fact that most of the jobs in Jerusalem were related to the Temple. Since the Jewish leaders (Sadducees) didn't believe in Resurrection, the early Christians lost jobs and were persecuted, often financially. In this offering, Paul was not only seeking to relieve the suffering of the saints, but also build a bridge of unity and love between the Jewish and Gentile Christians. This gift of love would go a long way of growing unity in the Body of believers.*

Eph 2:14 NLT - *"For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us."*

On this topic of supporting and helping the poor in and around our churches, the New Testament has much to say to us:

- The **church has an obligation** to help the truly needy (Jas 1:27).
- The **church must discern** who the truly needy are (1Tim 5:3).
- If a person can work to support himself, he is not truly needy and **must provide for his own needs** (2Thess 3:10-12, 1Tim 5:8, 1Thess 4:11).
- If a person can be **supported by their own family**, he is not truly needy and should not be supported by the church (1Tim 5:3-4).
- Those who are supported by the church must **make some return to the church** body (1Tim 5:5,10).
- It is right for the church to **examine moral conduct** before giving support (1Tim 5:9-13).
- The support of the church should be for **the basic necessities of living** (1Tim 6:8).

A beggar was looking for a handout one day in a sweet old English

village. Hungry, almost to the point of fainting, he stopped by an Inn bearing the classic name, "The Inn of St. George and the Dragon". He knocked on the door of the inn, and to the woman who answered, he said "Please ma'am, could you spare me a bite to eat?" "A bite to eat?!?" she growled. "For a sorry, no good-bum, a foul-smelling beggar like you? NO!!" she snapped as she almost slammed the door on his hand. The man walked away sad, but when he got halfway down the street, turned around and looked at the words on the sign "St. George and the Dragon". He went back and knocked again on the kitchen door. "Now what do you want?" she asked angrily. "**Well, ma'am, if St. George is in, may I please speak with him this time?**"

B. Managing the Lord's Money - GENERALLY.

However, even though this was a special offering for Jerusalem, we do learn some vital principles that relate to Christian Giving:

- **Giving is a vital act of spiritual WORSHIP.** - "***..as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside..***" - Each member was to come to the Lord's Day gathering prepared to give his share for that week. It is tragic when church members give only as a duty and forget that our offerings are to be "spiritual sacrifices" presented to the Lord (Phil. 4:18). Giving should be an act of worship to the resurrected and ascended Savior.

"Satan is willing to have us worship anything, however sacred - the Bible, the crucifix, the church - as long as we do not worship God Himself." - DL Moody

"When you recognize God as your Creator, you will admire Him. When you recognize His Wisdom, you will learn from Him. When you discover His strength, you will rely on Him. But only when He saves you, will you truly WORSHIP Him." - Max Lucado

"Worship is a voluntary act of gratitude offered by the saved to the Savior, by the healed to the Healer, and by the rescued to the Rescuer!" - Max Lucado

- **Biblical Giving should be CONSISTENT.** - "***On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside..***" - Every believer was to set aside his offering at home and then bring it to the assembly on the first day. The early church met on the first day of the week in commemoration of the **Resurrection** of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit also birthed the Church at **Pentecost**, on the first day of the week. Worshipping the Lord financially every week, helps to

produce consistent and continual growth inside of us as worshippers. Our selfishness decreases on a weekly basis. After all, as the saying goes "**God isn't trying to grow His funds, He's trying to grow His kids!**"

"If today's church members were as consistent in their giving as they are consistent in their other financial matters, the work of the Lord wouldn't suffer as it sometimes does, and ministry would go forward in an amazing way." - David Guzik

"When God's work is done in God's way for God's glory, it will never lack God's supply." - Hudson Taylor.

"A mother wanted to teach her daughter a moral lesson. She gave the little girl a quarter and a dollar for church "Put whichever one you want in the collection plate and keep the other for yourself," she told the girl. When they were coming out of church, the mother asked her daughter which amount she had given. "Well," said the little girl, "I was going to give the dollar, but just before the collection the man in the pulpit said that we should all be cheerful givers. I knew I'd be a lot more cheerful if I gave the quarter, so I did."

I have tried to keep things in my hands and lost them all, but what I have given into God's hands I still possess. - Martin Luther.

- **Biblical Giving is personal & sacrificial.** - "**..let each one of you lay something aside..**" - Paul expected each member to share in the offering, the rich and poor alike. Anyone who had an income was privileged to share and to help those in need. He wanted all to share in the blessing.

"It's not what you do with the million if fortune should ere be your lot, but what are you doing at present with the dollar and quarter you got."

"The trouble is that too many people are spending money they haven't yet earned for things they don't need to impress people they don't like."

If you give what you do not need, it isn't giving. - Mother Teresa.

THREE KINDS OF GIVERS: the **FLINT**, the **SPONGE** and the **HONEYCOMB**. To get anything out of a flint you must hammer it. And then you get only chips and sparks. To get water out of a sponge you must squeeze it, and the more you use pressure, the more you will get. But the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness. **Which kind of giver are you?**

2 Sam 24:24 - "Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will

surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver."

- **Giving should be proportionate.** - "**..let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper..**" - Believers who have more financially, should give more financially. The Amplified translates this Greek language: "**..let each one of you [personally] put aside something and save it up as he has prospered [in proportion to what he is given]..**" The Jewish believers in the church would have been accustomed to the tithe, but Paul did not mention any special proportion. Certainly the tithe (10% of one's income) is a good place to begin, but we must not remain at that level. As the Lord gives us more, we should plan to give more.

"Give according to your income, lest God make your income according to your giving." - Peter Marshall.

Two men were marooned on an Island. One man paced back and forth worried and scared while the other man sat back and was sunning himself. The first man said to the second man, "aren't you afraid we are about to die." "No," said the second man, "I make \$100,000 a week and tithe faithfully to my church every week. My Pastor will find me."

J.L. Kraft, head of the Kraft Cheese Corporation, who had given approximately 25% of his enormous income to Christian causes for many years, said, "The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord."

"Oh, as I shovel it out, He shovels it in, and the Lord has a bigger shovel." - Today in the Word

A little girl loved the Lord and longed to share the message of Christ to those on the mission field. She contributed a penny to a missionary to help in the work of evangelizing the people of Burma. The missionary was so touched by the little girl's response that he decided to do the most he could with that little penny. After careful thought, he bought a gospel tract and personally gave it to a young chieftain. The chieftain would not admit that he could not read, yet he burned with a desire to know the contents of the leaflet. He traveled 250 miles to find someone who would read it to him. After hearing the gospel message, it was not long after that this young chief

made a profession of faith in Christ. Returning to his people, he told them what the Lord had done for him. Later he invited missionaries to come and share Jesus with the village. Many tribesmen accepted the good news and were converted. All this and probably more resulted from one dedicated penny given in Christ's name by a little girl who gave from her heart.

- **Money is to be handled honestly.** - " " - *The various churches involved in this special offering appointed delegates to help Paul manage it and take it safely to Jerusalem. (2Cor 8:16-24) Every ministry ought to operate with accountability and transparency in its financial affairs. Paul was very careful not to allow anything to happen that would give his enemies opportunity to accuse him of stealing funds (2Cor 8:20–21).*

Giving is a great PRIVILEGE for our lives! It has been said that we should give until it hurts, but in reality, it should hurt when we cease to give. What a wonderful privilege it is to be able to contribute and partner in the work of GOD upon the earth! Who are we that we should be able to participate in such a marvelous undertaking?!? (2Sam 7) But nonetheless, this is the case - we can fund and partner in expanding Christ's Kingdom here on earth! Why would we not get involved??