

New Memorial M.B. Church

Bible Class 11/2/2021

Introduction to Stewardship

*To be a disciple of the Lord involves discipline, and discipline must be comprehensive-covering the whole of our life, including the matter of the use of money.

Acts 19:27-30

²⁷ During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) ²⁹ The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. ³⁰ This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

1. THE PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF GIVING IS THE PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE.

It was "the disciples"" (verse 29) who gave. Notice, from Proverbs 15:8; Isaiah 1:11; Amos 5:22, that God will not accept worship without righteousness. Nothing that we can give to Him is acceptable until we have received His Son and have been washed in His precious blood (1 John 1:7). So we see that the privilege and responsibility of giving belongs to Christians.

Proverbs 15:8

New International Version

⁸The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked,
but the prayer of the upright pleases him.

2. THE PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF GIVING IS THE PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL THE LORD'S PEOPLE.

Notice in verse 29 -- "each..."..." gave -- they *all* gave! When we remember Calvary we are immediately compelled to give to Him who gave so much for us! In the Old Testament giving was looked upon as a *responsibility*; but in the New Testament it was looked upon as a *privilege*. Then, it was a matter

of *Law*; now it is a matter of *Grace*. We are not bound by *Law*; we are bound by *Love*. If Christians today were diligent and conscientious in their giving there would be no lack of funds for Christian ministry.

3. WE ARE TO GIVE PROPORTIONATELY.

Verse 29 tells us that those at Antioch gave according to their ability. The amount we give is determined by the amount we receive, and thus our giving will vary according to our receiving.

Mark 12:41-44

The Widow's Offering

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

4. WE ARE TO GIVE SYSTEMATICALLY AND NOT HAPHAZARDLY.

Notice the word "decided". The Greek word really means "to mark out", which is exactly what you and I should do with all that we receive.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

The Collection for the Lord's People

16 Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

Have you ever decided the proportion of money the Lord would have you give to Him and to His work? — or are you haphazard, undisciplined and careless in your giving?

How much we should give is a personal matter between ourselves and the Lord, but we should remember that the basic requirement is a tenth, and after this tenth (or tithe) then it's an offering.

5. WE ARE TO GIVE FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE AND TO A SPECIFIC WORK.

The Christians at Antioch did this — verse 29. Definite Christian work should have first claim upon our giving. Christians should be discerning and discriminating in the matter of giving — giving first to God’s work.

6. WE ARE NOT ONLY TO DECIDE HOW MUCH WE ARE TO GIVE, BUT WE ARE TO DO IT!

In verse 29 we read that ““each.....decided...””, but in verse 30 we read, “This they *did!*” It is one thing to make up your mind to do a thing; it is another thing to do it.

2 Corinthians 8:11

¹¹ Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.

7. THE MEDIUM OF OUR GIVING IS THE LOCAL CHURCH

Verse 30 says “sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul”. The local assembly was the *channel* of their giving.