

Articles of Faith Lesson 20: “Of The Grace Of Giving”

XX. Of The Grace Of Giving

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the Faith.

Acts 20:35 – I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Luke 6:38 - Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Matthew 10:7-8 - And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. **8** Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Malachi 3:8-12 - Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. **9** Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation. **10** Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*. **11** And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. **12** And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 6:19-21 - Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: **20** But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: **21** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

2 Corinthians 8:7-9 - Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. **8** I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. **9** For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Matthew 22:21 - They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

Proverbs 3:9-10 - Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: **10** So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week.

1 Corinthians 16:2 - Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Under Grace we give, and do not pay, the tithe – “Abraham GAVE the tenth of the spoils.

Hebrews 7:2 – To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace.

Hebrews 7:4 – Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

This was four hundred years before the law and is confirmed in the New Testament.

Matthew 23:23 – Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury of the church.

Leviticus 27:30 – And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord.

Malachi 3:10 - Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

In the New Testament it was the common treasury of the church.

Acts 4:34,35 – Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

Acts 4:37 – Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

What is the purpose behind financially giving to the church?
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1. The Grace of Giving (2 Cor. 8:7, 1 Cor. 16:2, Heb. 7:2-4, Lev. 27:30, Mal. 3:10, Acts 4:34-37)

- Jesus spoke more on the subject of money than He did regarding Heaven, Hell, faith and prayer.
- The Bible has 2,350 verses on the subject of money.
- “All that church wants is my money!” is a very popular saying...
- It would help us to understand why stewardship of giving is so important and the basis for it.
- Stewardship is management
- 3 key words help us to understand stewardship:
 - 1) **Ownership** (Psalm 24:1, 50:12; Deut. 10:14; 1 Cor. 10:26; Haggai 2:8) – God owns everything.

- 2) **Responsibility** (1 Cor 4:1-2 calls us to be faithful. Matt. 25:14-30) – We are required to manage His possessions, which includes our lives.
 - 3) **Accountability** (Rom. 14:9-12; 1 Peter 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:10) – We will give an answer for our stewardship unto Him one day.
- a. **Tithing:** Returning to God what He requires. (Malachi 3:8-10)
- i. A person does not give their tithes, they return them.
 - ii. Tithes: means tenth or 10% of all we receive.
 - iii. Tithes are to be brought to God’s storehouse. The Old Testament storehouse was the Tabernacle, then the Temple. In the New Testament it is the local church. (I Cor. 16:1-2)
 - iv. The tithes are to be brought on Sunday, the Lord’s Day. (I Corinthians 16:1-2)
 - v. Were tithes only to be given under the law?
 1. Abraham gave the tithe before the Law. Gen. 14:20 “...And he gave him tithes of all.”
 2. Jacob gave the tithe before the Law. Gen. 28:22 “And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God’s house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.”
 3. God commanded the tithe from those under the Law. Leviticus 27:30 “The tithe... is the Lord’s: it is holy unto the Lord.”
 4. It was also after the Law had been broken. (Malachi 3:8-10)
 5. Jesus confirmed it in Matthew 23:23 that the Pharisees and scribes should not have neglected to give the tithe and offering; “these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.”
- b. **Offerings:** Giving above and beyond what is required. (Luke 6:38)
- i. Offerings are over and above the tithe or the first 10%.
 - ii. Offerings are to be brought to God’s storehouse, the local church.
 - iii. Biblical offerings were given for building needs, missions work, aid for the poor, and other needs as God and His Word directed. (Exodus 35:4-5, 21; 36:6-7; I Chronicles 22 and 29; II Corinthians 8:1-9:15; Philippians 4:14-19; Acts 11:27-30)
 - iv. Offerings should be given *willingly* (Exodus 35:5, 21), *sacrificially* (Mark 12:41-44), and *cheerfully* (II Corinthians 9:7).
- c. **What happens when we are wise stewards?**
- i. Honoring God, in turn God honors you. (Proverbs 3:9-10)
 - ii. God’s house (the local Church) is provided for, we will be blessed, Satan rebuked, and the fruit of our labor is protected. (Malachi 3:10-12)
 - iii. The fulfillment of the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - iv. The fulfillment of the Great Commandments. (Matthew 22:36-40)

In the Scriptures we find giving for many purposes:

- **To the Lord and His work (Operations)** – Gen 14:18-20
 - a) Abraham gave tithes unto the Lord through priest – Gen 14:18-20
 - b) Jacob gave tithes – Gen. 28:20-22

- **For Building and Ministry Needs**
 - a) Israelites gave unto the Lord through the House of God and provided for the Tabernacle and Temple – Lev. 27:30-33; Deut. 14:22-23
 - b) For the Tabernacle – Ex. 25:1-9; 35:4-9
 - c) David and Israelites gave abundantly for Temple – 1 Chron. 22:1-19; 29:1-20
 - d) For the repair of the Temple of God – Chest of Joash (aka Jehoash) – 2 Kings 12:4-15; 2 Chron. 24:1-16 (influenced by the godly priest Jehoiada)
 - e) Israel was often rebuked for not giving to the Lord’s work, while lavishly providing for their own homes – Haggai 1:1-11

- **For Missions and furtherance of the Gospel** – Acts 15:3; 21:5; Romans 15:20-24, 28; 2 Cor. 1:16; 1 Cor. 16:5-7; Phil. 4:14-19

- **For those who minister and preach the Gospel** - 1 Cor. 9:1-18; 2 Cor. 12:14-19; 1 Tim. 5:17-18

- **For Saints in poverty** – Acts 11:27-30; Romans 15:25-27; 2 Cor. 9:1-15

Additional Study:

1 Corinthians 8-9 provide a great study to show how to give biblically and with the right motive.