

Indio Informer

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May 7, 2017

Upcoming Events...

Business Meeting: Today, May 7 at 4:00 p.m.

1 Corinthians Class: Every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.

Mothers' Day: May 14

Ladies' Bible Class: May 21

Barnabas Group Meeting: May 30

Quotations about Giving

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

"We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving."

Amy Carmichael

"If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life." Billy Graham

May Birthdays

2 Peggy Woodruff 9 Kurt McGraw 15 Kena Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Sunday.....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

Church of Christ

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The New Testament Principles of Giving

Excerpts from article by David Banks

In chapter nine of the second Corinthian letter Paul gives his reasoning for giving on a weekly basis. He had instructed them a year prior to this letter and he wanted their gift to be gracious and generous. If they had been giving a little at a time on the first day of every week like Paul had instructed, then their gift would not have to be burdensome to them as a grudging obligation but as a matter of their own generosity.

In admonishing the Corinthian Christians to sow bountifully, Paul wrote, *"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2Corinthians 9:7). With this admonition he gave also the promised results of their offering. He promised first that in the graciousness of their giving God was able to make all grace abound toward them. He was encouraging them not to worry that God would take care of their needs (Matthew 5:25-33). He promised also that God would increase the fruits of their righteousness. In this he was informing that God would take their gift and use it to the maximum of its effectiveness to both fully supply the needs of the saints and also overflow unto the winning of souls (Matthew 5:13-16).

Ultimately, Paul was telling them that the fact that they had anything at all was because of God's grace and providence and let us never forget the greatest gift of all, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

There are a few conclusions that I believe we can draw from our study of Biblical giving. There is no evidence in the New Testament to suggest that the Old Testament command to give a tenth of their income (i.e. tithe) is still in effect today. The amount that we determine to give is strictly between God and ourselves. The admonition Paul gave to the Corinthians was, *"On the first day of*

the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper” (1 Corinthians 16:2), and “Let each one give as he purposes in his heart” (2 Corinthians 9:7). In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus, referring to the giving of money to help the needy, said, “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.” (Matthew 6:1-4).

Although the amount we give may, for the most part, be secret we should be careful not to use that as an excuse not to give liberally. We must remember that giving has always been stressed as a means of showing our trust in God and our gratitude for all that God has given to us and done for us. The Israelites gave their tithe as a demonstration that they trusted that God would provide for them. The Christians in the first century were commanded to give as God had prospered them. They were encouraged to give liberally/bountifully, not grudgingly or of necessity, trusting that God was able to supply seed to the sower, and bread for food.

The first century Christians were also encouraged to give selflessly putting the needs others above their own needs. This Christian quality extends far beyond the giving of money. To the Philippians Paul wrote, *“If there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”* (Philippians 2:1-4). Many legitimate needs still exist in these modern times. With this in mind, as we have been prospered, we should give liberally with the intention and purpose of meeting the needs of the church, helping those in need and spreading the gospel; and to do this in such a manner as to make it a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation, we should give faithfully on the first day of every week.

GIVING TO JESUS

By Russ Lawson

I've been preaching for 30 years and have been involved in hurt life for a lot longer than that. One of the things I have noticed through the years is that giving can be a difficult subject with which to deal. Generally, you see two attitudes, one of joy in giving and the other of "Do I really have to?"

I read about a little girl that became restless, as the preacher's sermon seemed (to her young mind) to drag on and on. She finally leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?" Too often that reflects the attitude we exhibit; if not, where would a child learn to think like that? Hopefully that is not your attitude.

As I said, one attitude we see exhibited is one of joy at the ability to give. This past Lord's Day one of our men was making a short talk before taking the contribution. He said, "Too often we try to concentrate at least once a week on Christ and His life." His point was that we should move out of the "Once A Week" mode and be thinking about Christ daily. When we begin to do that, we will begin to move into the "giving joyfully" mode. It is impossible to think about someone else giving you a fabulously expensive gift without responding to that with thankfulness.

I read of another little girl that wanted desperately to give something to Jesus. When the collection was taken that Sunday she had no money to give. Thinking very seriously, she took the special ring from her finger that her favorite aunt had given her. She placed it in the basket with a smile on her face. Her father, who had seen her actions, after services reclaimed the ring and took it back to his daughter with the intention of giving it back to her. He told her, "Honey, we appreciate your putting your ring in the collection plate, but it's special, and we just want you to keep it." Her response was, "I didn't give it to you; I gave it to Jesus."

You see therein is the key to our giving. Too often we think of our giving as "to the church," "to pay the bills," or "to pay the preacher," when in reality our giving is to our God. That is what makes giving special, the fact that it is something we do to honor God, not just to pay the bills. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:7, *"You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly."*

May our Gracious God grant us the ability to give as a child...gladly, from the heart, everyday!