

What The Bible Teaches About Giving

Introduction:

1. God has much to say about our money and material possessions.
2. This is because He wants us to know the danger posed by these things.
3. It is also because He wants us to learn to be like Him – generous in our giving.

I. The Basics about Giving

- A. What? (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
 1. Giving is a command of God!
 - a. “As I have given order” means, “To arrange thoroughly; to ordain; to prescribe; to institute; to command” (cf. Matt. 11:1; Acts 7:44; 18:2; 23:31; 24:23; 1 Cor. 7:17; 9:14; 11:34; Gal. 3:19; Titus 1:5).
 - b. It was not just for the church at Corinth, but also the churches of Galatia – and all other churches (cf. 1 Cor. 1:2).
 - c. It was to enable the church to accomplish its work – in this case, to help the needy in Jerusalem.
 - i. The work of the church is evangelism (Mark 16:15-16).
 - ii. The work of the church is edification (Eph. 4:12).
 - iii. The work of the church is benevolence (Gal. 6:9-10).
 2. Giving is an act of worship.
- B. When? (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
 1. Upon the first day of the week, when the church is assembled together for worship (cf. Acts 20:7)
 2. Of course, this means every first day of the week.
 - a. The denominational world understands this concerning giving, for they take up a collection every Sunday.
 - b. However, they fail to partake of the Lord’s Supper each Sunday – even though the same phrase is used in Acts 20:7.
 3. Also, this means that this is the only time the church is authorized to take up a collection to support its work.
- C. Who? (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
 1. Christians – “every one of you.”
 2. The work of the church is to be supported by the free-will offering of its members.
 - a. It is not raised by bake sales, yard sales, or other fund raisers.
 - b. Christians must “put their money where their mouth is” – or, where their faith is.
- D. Why? (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:15)
 1. To obey the command of God.
 2. To support the work of the church.
 3. To have order in the worship and work of the church.
 4. To demonstrate gratitude and love toward God.
 5. To imitate the Father in Heaven (cf. Matt. 5:45; Jam. 1:17).
- E. How? (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:7)
 1. Proportionately – “As God has prospered.”
 2. Planned – “As he purposeth in his heart.”
 3. Willingly – “Not grudgingly, or of necessity.”
 4. Cheerfully – “God loveth a cheerful giver.”
 5. Sacrificially

II. The Importance of Giving
A. Text (Luke 16)

Luke 16:8 ESV

8 The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.

Luke 16:8 LITV

8 And the lord praised the unrighteous steward, because he acted prudently. For the sons of this age are more prudent than the sons of light themselves are in their generation.

B. 16:9 – Use material wealth to prepare for eternity!

1 Timothy 6:17-19 KJV

17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

C. 16:10 – God cares about the little things!

Luke 21:1-4

1 And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury.

2 And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites.

3 And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:

4 For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.

Matthew 6:33

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

D. 16:13 – We must choose our master!

1. Rich, young ruler (Matt. 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 18:18-23)

2. Jesus beholding him, loved him – *told him what he needed to hear.*

3. He went away grieved – *distressed, sorrowful.*

4. There is none good but one, that is, God – *Jesus is deity.*

E. 16:14-15 – The covetous seek to justify themselves.

F. 16:16-18 – The Pharisees were just as sinful as all other men, but self-righteous.

G. 16:19-31 – A true story to show the Pharisees that they were bound for Hell.

1. A real-life illustration of the parable of the unjust steward

2. One who does not use his wealth to prepare for eternity will find himself in torments!