

“Worship Through Giving”
1 Corinthians 16:1-4
Sunday April 29, 2018

There are at least **2,350 passages** in the Bible dealing with money and material possessions. That’s more than on any other subject.

Of **38 Parables of Jesus**, 12 have to do with money; **God-given resources; Our use of material goods.**

In the 4 gospels, 1 out of every 8 verses speak of money.

The Epistle to the **Philippians** is a “thank you” note for giving an offering. **2 Corinthians** has 2 chapters dedicated to giving, **2 Corinthians 8-9.**

If teaching on the subject of Stewardship is presented Biblically, no Christian should ever be offended.

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 Is Rich In **“Christian Stewardship.” Stewardship** – “is one that manages, or has oversight over the affairs of another, he does not own that which he has been entrusted with but manages it as if it is his own.”
(Believers)

7 Principles Of Stewardship Of God:

1 Corinthians 16:1 – “Now” – Signals a transition in thought to which Paul has been speaking. He has spent the entire previous chapter, 1 Corinthians 15, speaking about the resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:58

After Paul had taught on the Resurrection, he goes right into teaching on Giving to the Lord. (Our Giving is Spiritual!)

“concerning the collection” – the word “collection” – means “to say something.”

“for the saints,” – This was an offering for the suffering saints of Jerusalem.

Acts 11:29-30

The Resurrection Gives Life, So We Should Invest In The Eternal.

2 Corinthians 8-9; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 are passages dealing with the giving of this offering to the saints at Jerusalem.

1. Giving Is By The Believers To The Church: "as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also."

Christians Are Givers Because God Has Changed Their Hearts!
Acts 20:35

1 Corinthians 12:26

According to a George Gallup Poll, within the average church, 17% say they tithe but only 3% actually do. 40% will give nothing in a year. 91% say they make more money than they ever have in their life. 71% of pastors believe that church members have changed from stewards into consumers.

1 Corinthians 16:2

2. Giving Is An Act Of Worship: "On the first day of every week" – This is the basis for Christians Worshipping on Sunday.

Acts 20:7

Our Giving Is An Act Of Worship.

Giving was not to be hit and miss but it was to be consistent to the Lord.

2 Corinthians 9:7 – "Cheerful" is the word we get "hilarious" from.

"cheerful giver" – God loves a hilarious giver.

(We miss out! On the blessings)

3. Giving Is A Christian Quality: "each one of you"

Every Christian Should Give: No matter how poor you may be!

2 Corinthian 9:7

2 Corinthian 8:1-2

Mark 12:41 – Widow who gave two small coins. She gave out of her poverty!

The Application for us is that someday we are going to stand before God to give an account!

4. Giving Should Be Determined Beforehand: “put aside and save,” (KJV – “lay by him in store”); literally, “let everyone of you treasure up a precious thing.”

John 12 – Mary took some ointment that was worth a year’s wages, and she poured it on Jesus.

Luke 16:11

“When God has our heart, He also has our wallet.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

PayPal, TITHE.LY

5. Giving Should Be Proportionate: “as he may prosper,” – the word “prosper” – “good journey.” The giving was in proportion to God’s financial blessings upon our lives. How has God blessed us on life’s journey?

2 Corinthians 9:6

Luke 6:38

How much should we give? Is there a certain amount that we should give? 10% of the Gross or the Net?

I believe that the NT teaches “Grace Giving.” The OT (Israel) was to Tithe – 10% along with other offerings. As much as 30% – 35% was given to God.

God is concerned about Actions and Attitudes! The heart!

2 Corinthians 8:12

We will never have enough; that is the deceitfulness of riches!

6. Giving Should Not Be Through Pressure: “so that no collections be made when I come.”

Don't give because Paul was there. This goes against this practice of taking multiple offerings.

Matthew 6:3-4

1 Corinthians 16:3

7. Giving Should Be To A Ministry Of Integrity: “When I arrive, whomever you may approve,” – The offering carried by proven faithful men.

“whomever you may approve,” – The world has checks and balances when it comes to finances. Should not the church even be above this?

“I shall send them with letters” – These letters were some type of correspondence that these faithful men would travel and deliver.

“to carry your gift to Jerusalem;” – Notice that Paul was not going to be carrying the gift, but it was going to be by the other faithful men.

1 Corinthians 16:4

Application:

1. Giving Is Not A One Time Gift, Nor An Occasional Gift, But A Lifestyle.
2. When Giving Is Presented Biblically, No Christian Should Ever Take Offense. If so, it reveals where the heart really is, under the control of money.
3. Tithing Is An Old Testament Teaching For Israel. The Christian Is Under Grace. Because Of Grace, The Believer Is Liberated And Goes Beyond The OT In Their Giving.
4. Am I Giving Back To God What Is Rightfully His? Matthew 22:21