

Discussion Guide: August 17, 2025
Series: Church Matters
Message: Giving To The Local Church?
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Take Home Truth: Here is the WHERE, HOW, AND WHY of giving to the local church.

- **WHERE:** God wants you to prioritize giving to your local church.
- **HOW:** God wants you to give joyfully, faithfully and sacrificially.
- **WHY:** God wants you and others to experience His abundant blessings both here and into eternity through your giving to the local church.

Focus Passages

Matthew 10:29-31 (NIV): *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*

John 10:10 (ESV): *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

Galatians 6:6,10 (NLT): *Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them....Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.*

2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (NIV): *And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV): *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV): *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

Matthew 6:21 (NIV): *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the most enjoyable and satisfying purchases you've made? What purchase caused you to have "buyer's remorse" and why?

2. Read/focus on the John 10 and Galatians 6 passages above. What would change most in your life if you truly believed that God cares about you and wants to give you abundant life?
3. Bryan said that money is a tool to accomplish your priorities. Of the following options (security, control, status, power, pleasure, happiness, value or worth), what tempts you most to look for money to give you and why?
4. When you give to your local church the gospel is advanced. What motivates you or has given you joy by giving to your local church?
5. Reread 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 and 2 Corinthians 9:7. How would you describe how God wants you to give? What makes it difficult for you to give in this way?
6. Reread 1 Timothy 6:17-19. In what ways are you tempted to put your hope in wealth?
7. What do you need to do this week to have your financial giving to your local church be joyful, faithful and sacrificial?

Prayer: If you have made Jesus your Lord and Savior, spend time praising God that He cares for you and has given you abundant life through Jesus. Ask God to help you trust Him with your finances and to give generously to your local church, so that the gospel can take deeper root in your own heart and advance the work of your church.