

“What Shall We Render Unto the Lord!”

Psalm 116:12

Intro. – Notice our text is a very personal question: “How can I repay the Lord?” You see, our relationship with God is most personal. His love for us is individual and personal... His requirements are individual and personal... Our accountability to him is very individual and personal.

Sometimes, however, we often are guilty of taking this marvelous text and we try to reverse it. We attempt to turn it into an impersonal “What more can the Lord do for us!”

Amos R. Wells expressed this thought well in the following poem entitled: *Gifts*

GIFTS

Said the man to the Lord: “See what great things I have given Thee;
And wilt Thou not do some great things for me?
Said the Lord to the man: “I gave thee gold, and thou has given Me copper;
I gave thee years, and thou has given Me hours;
I gave thee infinite planning, and thou hast given Me hasty thoughts.
I gave thee a marvelous body, and thou has given Me heedlessness of health;
I gave thee love, and thou has given Me indifference;
I gave thee prayer, and thou has given Me complaints;
I gave thee prayer, and thou has given Me silence;
I gave thee boundless future, and thou has given Me selfish ambitions.
I gave thee a world full of men and women, and thou has given Me cold egotism;
I gave thee Myself and all of Myself, and thou hast given Me only a fragment of your heart;
Tell Me, oh man, what great thing I should give thee for all the great things thou has given Me.”
Then said the man to the Lord: “Give me only, oh Lord, Thy forgiveness, and Your grace,
That I may serve Thee faithfully all the days of my life;
For I am unworthy of the least of all Thy mercies and I deserve nothing of Thy hands.”

Can we dwell too much upon the goodness of our Lord to us? Is it wrong to recognize the great debt we owe to Him alone? Just exactly what shall we render to the Lord for all His goodness?

Purpose: to better realize our great need to render our best unto the Lord

I The Lord’s GOODNESS to Us

A. Consider His Spiritual Benefits

- Ephesians 1:3 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”
- 1. The Gift of His Only Son
 - a. Galatians 2:20 “...The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”
 - b. Illus. – during Civil War, men would hire other men to fight in their place. One such soldier died in battle. The man who hired him gave him a simple burial, with a simple marker. But what he placed on the marker was profound: “He died for me.”
 - c. Christ died for us, He died for a thoughtless, friendless, hopeless, rebellious, Godless lot... remember while we were yet sinners He died for us!
 - d. we are the recipients of the gift of God’s Son!
- 2. The gift of His Church
 - a. heaven sent, blood bought, spirit filled, glory bound
 - b. privileges and blessings abound in His Church – e.g. the greatest cause on earth... greater than any civic or charity group anywhere...
 - c. what an honor to be “laborers together with God...” 1 Corinthians 3:9
 - d. what a great benefit = the gift of His Church!
- 3. The gift of His Word
 - a. what it reveals = need for a Savior and that Savior is Jesus...

- b. what it supplies = all that is need to know and do the will of God...
 - c. what it actually is = a lamp..., a mirror..., food..., a sword... = God's inerrant Word!
 - d. exceedingly great and precious promises = God's Word!
4. The gift of His Abode
- a. heaven is a place we can't describe because we can't comprehend the incomprehensible.
 - b. Illus. – like the farmer went to NY City came back and tried to describe to his family what it was like. He compared skyscrapers to silos and subways to mole tunnels... But skyscrapers are not silos and mole tunnels are not subways – point is he was limited to explaining it...
 - c. our language will be bankrupt when heaven is finally revealed – this much we do know – no more crying... pain... dying and no more temptation and sin in heaven!

How we need to consider the spiritual benefits that are ours in Christ Jesus!

B. Consider His Physical Benefits

1. Our families and homes
 - a. mates described as *gifts* (Proverbs 19:14)
 - b. children are described as *gifts* (Psalm 127:3)
 - c. happy homes are preludes to heaven = what a marvelous benefit!
2. Health and happiness
 - a. healthy bodies and sound minds = wealthy!
 - b. poem: Two eyes to look to God above,
Two hands to clasp in prayer.
Two feet to carry me to church,
Why, I'm a millionaire!
3. Physical necessities – every need He is supplying... by our jobs enabling us to have necessities...
4. Consider the beauty/wonders of Creation = God has done all things better than well!

C. Consider His Innumerable Benefits

“BENEFITS”

List the things you're thankful for, write them in a row;
Extra paper you will need, first thing you will know.
You'll be so much surprised – another pencil, please!
Start with things you love outdoors – roses, birds and trees.
Add the sun, moon, and the stars, don't forget the brook.
Oh, me, before you're through, you will fill a book.

II What We Should RENDER to the Lord

- for such great benefits, what should we render to the Lord?

A. Our Love

1. John 14:15 *“If you love me keep my commandments.”*
2. On what basis does God have the right to ask this of us? – Obviously He created us... but also He loved us first as stated in 1 John 4:19
3. Love can and is easily misplaced in the world and things of the world... Christ alone is deserving of our love and devotion.
4. Love doesn't go unrewarded:
 - James 1:12 *“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.”*

B. Our Time

1. I hear and say myself – “I don't have the time... I'm too busy...” – we do what we want to do...!
2. Illus. – if Dr. said, “Take one hour nap every day in afternoon or exercise ½ hour every day or you will die” bet we'd find the time to do it... If a teacher said you must tutor you son/daughter 30 min. a day or they'll get hopelessly behind we'd find time to do it...
 - point is we find the time for what we want to do...

3. Illus. – break down of hours left after *needed* matters are covered...

C. Our Talents

1. Each person has at least one thing they can do to contribute to the Lord's work:
- Matthew 25:14-30 – parable of the talents makes this clear...
2. Unless we use our talent(s) we will lose them...
3. Master's economy grows in proportion to use of talents; thus, how can we afford NOT to use our abilities and to seize the opportunities He gives?!

D. Our Money

1. "Our" money is a misnomer = His to begin with; yet, He has entrusted it to our use...
2. Lord wants and needs His work supported. Is it deserving?...
3. If every Christian would simply "tithes", this church would never have another money concern...
4. No individual who fails to give at least a tithe to the Lord's work can fully appreciate God's benefits given to them personally.

E. Our Lives

1. We are to *present our lives as living sacrifices, holy, acceptable and pleasing to God*...Romans 12
2. Our lives are given to us to worship and serve Him, not ourselves!

What should we render to the Lord? – our very best!

Conclusion: Suppose you knew friends that came into great wealth. Let's say they came unannounced and took you to a gorgeous house... Upon completing this tour, they take you to the garage to show you a beautiful new automobile... Then they give you a check for \$25,000 and say "All of this is yours. We've been blessed and we want to be a blessing to you with it..."

Suppose these friends came to you after this and made a small request of you. Would you hesitate? Certainly not! Out of indebted gratitude you'd respond... With this in mind why can't you and I have the same sense of indebted gratitude toward our Lord and what He has done for us!...