

WHY SHOULD WE GIVE?

2 Corinthians 9:7

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. Today we are going to look at some of what the Bible says... about giving.
- b. Today I want to answer a simple question... “Why should we give?”

II. WE SHOULD GIVE BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN COMMANDED TO GIVE-

- a. The principle of the tithe... the principle of giving at least 10% of what the Lord enables and allows us to earn back to Him ... was established in the Old Testament... and it was never revoked in the New Testament.
- b. Jesus said in Matthew 23:23... that tithing is something that should be done.
- c. While the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament that applied to the nation of Israel... do not apply to the church today.
- d. The principals... and the moral and spiritual truths and commands that are found in the Old Testament...that reflect the nature and character of God ... do apply to today... and they will always apply.
- e. One of those principals is the principal of the tithe... the principal that as an act of faith, worship and thanksgiving... to recognize and honor the Lord as the source of all of our blessings... to acknowledge our dependence on the Lord as the Giver of all good things.
- f. God’s people should give at least 10% of their income to the Lord... that principal still applies to today...and will always apply to God’s people.

- g. Not to give as the Lord has commanded believers to give...not only robs us of blessings from the Lord...it is disobeying a command of the Lord.
- h. Malachi 3:8 is still true... *“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.”*
- i. Someone once told me that the Christian life is about grace... it is not about keeping commands... and then I read John 14:5 to him... where Jesus said... *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”*
- j. The Christian life is about grace... discipleship and following Christ is about obeying the commands of the One who has saved us by grace.
- k. The first reason we should give is this... we should give because we have been commanded to give.

III. WE SHOULD GIVE BECAUSE WE LOVE THE LORD-

- a. Even though we have been commanded to give... we are not give to the Lord because we have too... we are to give to the Lord because we want to.
- b. We are to give to the Lord ... because we want to worship, honor and obey the One who has saved us...the One who keeps us saved... and the One who constantly blesses our lives with His mercy, grace, protection and provision.
- c. When we give to the Lord... the first place the Lord looks is not to the amount of the gift... the first place God looks is our heart.
- d. Giving is a matter of the heart... if we love the Lord as we should ... then we will give to the Lord as we should.
- e. That is the point Paul made in 2 Corinthians 9:7... when he wrote to the Corinthian church... *“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

- f. If you love the Lord as you should... then you will not be stingy with the Lord... you will not withhold from the Lord what He claims as His own... you will not make excuses for why you can't give... you will cheerfully and generously give to the Lord as you should.
- g. We should give because we have been commanded to give ...we should give because we love the Lord.

IV. WE SHOULD GIVE TO THE LORD BECAUSE IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO-

- a. Think about all that the Lord gives us... He gives us life ... He gives us breath... God is the source of all of our blessings.
- b. God even blesses those who do not believe in Him... Jesus said in Matthew 5:45... that God He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good... and He sends rain and blessings on the just and on the unjust.
- c. James 1:17 says that... *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”*
- d. Everything that is good in your life...is ultimately a gift that comes from God.
- e. *Psalm 68:19 (NKJV) “Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, The God of our salvation!”*
- f. Even beyond the daily blessings of life...God gave His only begotten Son... who willingly came into this world to die for us... and to make our salvation possible.
- g. Romans 8:32 says that God... *“did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all.”*
- h. The Bible also says that it is God... who gives you the power, strength, ability and opportunity to work and to earn wealth.

- i. *Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV) “And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth...”*
- j. God has made it possible for you to have 10/10's of what you have ... and all he requires is that as an act of worship... as an act of faith... as an act of obedience... to honor the One who blesses you and the One who has saved you ... that you give back to Him 1/10 of what He blesses you with.
- k. Because God is the source of our life... our blessings... and our salvation... we should give to Him because it is the right thing to do.
- l. Albert Barnes... a theologian from the early 1800's wrote this in his commentary on Malachi... “Thou knowest that all things which come to thee are God's... and dost not thou give of His own back to the Creator of all?... The Lord God needeth not... He asketh not a reward ... but He does ask for reverence... He asketh not anything of thine, to restore to Him... He asketh of thee the “first-fruits and tithes” ... that which He has given to thee...Stingy ... what wouldest thou do... if He took nine parts to Himself... and left thee the tenth?... What if He said to thee... “Man, thou art Mine, Who made thee... Mine is the land which thou tillest... Mine are the seeds, which thou sowest... Mine are the animals, which serve thee... Mine are the showers... Mine the winds... Mine the sun's heat... and since Mine are all the elements, whereby thou livest... thou who givest only the labor of thine hands... you are the one who only deserves the tithe.”... But since Almighty God lovingly feeds us ... He gives most ample reward to us who labor little... claiming to Himself the tithes only... He has condoned all the rest to us.”
- m. We should give because we have been commanded to give ...we should give because we love the Lord... we should give because it is the right thing to do.

V. WE SHOULD GIVE BECAUSE GOD HAS PROMISED TO BLESS THOSE WHO GIVE-

- a. In many places in the Bible... the Lord promises to bless those who give to Him.
- b. *Malachi 3:10 (NKJV) "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it."*
- c. *Luke 6:38 (NKJV) "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*
- d. How does God bless those who tithe?... #1, Those who tithe are blessed with the satisfaction of knowing... that they are obeying the Lord in a key area of the Christian life.
- e. A recent study by sociologist Christian Smith shows people who tithe ... are more likely to be happier than those who don't.
- f. #2, Those who tithe... are blessed with a sense of contentment with what they have.
- g. *1 Timothy 6:6 (NKJV) "Now godliness with contentment is great gain."*
- h. *Philippians 4:11 (NKJV) "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content."*
- i. Generally, those who tithe tend to have a greater a sense of contentment with what they have... than those who don't tithe.
- j. People who tithe are usually just as ambitious and motivated... to advance financially and to have more as those who don't tithe.

- k. But people who tithe are generally not a part of the rat race of this world... they are not always trying to get ahead and get more...no matter who they hurt ... no matter who they run over... and no matter who they have to neglect.
- l. People who tithe as they should are not possessed and controlled by materialism and greed...they are not in bondage to the desire to lay up and pile up for themselves treasures on earth.
- m. People who tithe have a greater desire to lay up treasures in Heaven... by investing in the work of the church... and in the Kingdom of God.
- n. #3, Studies have shown that Christian people of faith... including those who tithe... are physically healthier ... and tend to live longer than those who don't.
- o. #4, People who tithe tend to be better off financially than those who don't... according to a recent study by Christianity Today and the Evangelical Christian Credit Union... the finances of Christians who tithe are generally healthier than the finances of those who do not.
- p. Researchers compared thousands of tithers to non-tithers using nine financial health indicators... and found that tithers were better off in every category.
- q. Brian Kluth... lead researcher in the study said that while non-tithers say they cannot afford to tithe... tithers say they are blessed and much better off financially because they do tithe.
- r. Jesus promised in Matthew 6:33 that if we will make the kingdom of God our priority... if we will work and give to advance the gospel and the kingdom of God in this world... then everything we need and more will be added to us... you cannot out give God!
- s. #5, Those who tithe will be blessed with a closer walk and fellowship with God... and with more ability and opportunities to serve the Lord.

- t. *Luke 16:10-11 “If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?”*
- u. #6, Those who tithe and give as they should... have the privilege of supporting God’s work and Kingdom in this world... and they will be rewarded in Heaven.
- v. Besides hearing our Lord say “Well done, thou good and faithful servant”... the greatest reward in Heaven you will receive will be to have someone walk up to you and say “Thank You” for giving... your gift supported the missionary... or bought the Bible... God used your gift to share the gospel with me... I am in Heaven because of what you gave.
- w. We should give because we have been commanded to give ...we should give because we love the Lord... we should give because it is the right thing to do... we should give because God has promised to bless those who give.

VI. WE SHOULD GIVE TO SUPPORT AND ENABLE OUR CHURCH TO CARRY OUT OUR MISSION-

- a. As a member of this church... you have the responsibility to support this church with your prayers... your presence... your involvement ... your work... and with your tithes and offerings.
- b. The tithe belongs to the church of which you are a part... *Malachi 3:10 (NKJV) “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food (or provisions and resources) in My house...”*
- c. Today... the church of which you are a part is the storehouse... it is the tithes of God’s people in this church that enable our church to carry out our mission in the world.

- d. The Bible is pretty blunt... the Bible says that when a Christian does not tithe... they are taking what belongs to God and using it for themselves... they are also robbing themselves of blessings... and they are robbing from the church ... they are taking from the church the resources its needs to carry out its ministries and mission.

VII. CONCLUSION-

- a. We should give because we have been commanded to give ...we should give because we love the Lord... we should give because it is the right thing to do... we should give because God has promised to bless those who give... we should give to support and enable our church to carry out our mission.
- b. I heard someone say one time that they “tithed” 2% of their income ... which does not make sense... how can you 10% 2% of your income.
- c. The tithe is 10% of your income... not what is left after you pay your bills... the tithe is the firstfruit... the first 10% before you pay anything else.
- d. When we stand before the Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ ... the Lord will either bless and reward you for tithing... or He will judge you for not trusting in Him... and for not obeying Him... because you did not tithe.
- e. Tithing is not a bill you pay... tithing is a decision you make... it is an investment you make in the Kingdom of God... and it is an investment with a great reward and blessing... both in this world and the next.