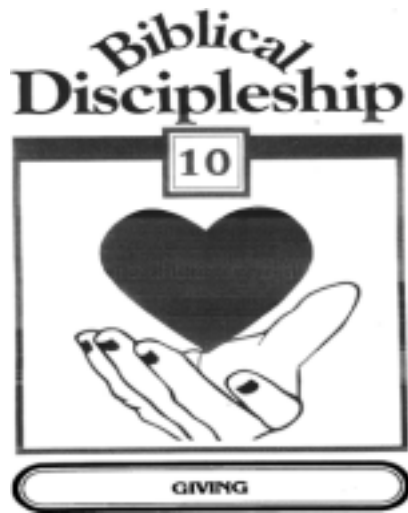




GIVING LESSON 10

"What is the Meaning of Giving and What Are My Responsibilities in this Area?"

Giving is an extremely controversial subject in Christianity today largely due to the severe pressures exerted on God's people to give to so many worthy causes. This is perhaps one of the most misunderstood subjects in Christianity.

Before you can properly understand the nature of New Testament giving, you must understand one fact clearly: **God does not need your money.** He owns everything.

This lesson will deal with the Christian's responsibility in stewardship of his/her life as well as his/her resources.

I. Before any giving can be truly proper, you must be willing to give yourself first.

A. God bought you with a price, His blood, and you belong to Him.

I Corinthians 6:19-20

B. God commands you to present your body as a living sacrifice, not just your pocketbook.

Romans 12:1

C. A willing mind and heart with a life committed to service to God must precede financial giving in order for God to bless it.

[II Corinthians 8:3-5](#), 12.

II. What is the reason for my giving?

A. Giving proves the sincerity of your love for Jesus Christ

II Corinthians 8:8

B. Giving develops an attitude of grace. It takes no special talents or abilities to give, only grace.

II Corinthians 8:6-7, 9:8

C. Giving is an investment in eternal riches and gets your eyes off earthly riches, which will fade away.

Philippians 4:17, [Matthew 6:19-21](#)

D. The person who benefits most from your giving is **You**.

Acts 20:35

III. Where am I to give?

A. Your primary responsibility is to your local church. All giving in the New Testament is done within the context of a local church ministry.

[I Corinthians 16:1-3](#) is the definitive passage.

B. Obviously, anyone is free to give to causes outside the local church, and God may even use and bless it. However, it is the local church which is central in God's plan. Any giving outside of it should never be done at the expense of what God would have you do in your church. This is equally true of time and service.

IV. What is my money used for?

A. The support of the leaders of the church.

I Corinthians 9:13-14

Galatians 6:6

I Timothy 5:17-18

B. Other works of God are supported through your church.

Philippians 4:15-16

C. Support of those within the church body who are UNABLE to support themselves, and who have proved themselves FAITHFUL under the New Testament guidelines.

Acts 6:1

[I Timothy 5:9-10, 16](#)

D. To meet general needs as determined by the leadership of your church.

II Corinthians 8:4

[Acts 11:27-30](#)

E. To assist in the worldwide spread of the Gospel. (World Missions)

Philippians 4:15-16

V. What am I supposed to give?

You are supposed to **give your life**. Your giving is to be out of a willing heart and because you love the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us examine amounts of giving from the Bible.

A. The "tithe" - In the Old Testament, the Jews were required by their religious law to give a certain percentage of their income. This "tithe" was one-tenth of a person's income. In addition, the Jews gave freewill offerings for various other works of God, bringing their total giving to well over ten per cent.

II Chronicles 31:11-12

[Deuteronomy 12:5-7](#)

B. The church is not bound by the letter of the Old Testament law. However, the principles of the Old Testament establish patterns for our relationship with God.

I Corinthians 10:11

Romans 15:4

VI. The New Testament principles of giving are applied in three areas:

A. Structure - A young Christian should establish discipline in his life in all areas. In giving, the principle of ten percent can help provide that structure.

B. Cheerful Giving - As an individual grows in the Lord, he will develop an attitude to go beyond structures. The grace of cheerful giving then becomes a reality in his life.

The New Testament principles of giving are summarized in

II Corinthians 9:7

1. "As a man purposeth in his heart "Your giving is between you and GOD.

2. "Not grudgingly. "If your giving is done with the wrong attitude, you will not experience God's blessing.

3. "Or of necessity. "You are not bound by the tithe or any other law."

4. "FOR GOD LOVETH A CHEERFUL GIVER."

C. Sacrificial Giving - Christian maturity will result in sacrificial giving. When a person gives beyond his power to give, it costs him something. At this point, the grace of giving is maximized in his life.

II Corinthians 8:3

II Samuel 24:24

VII. Other principles of giving.

A. Proportionate Giving - Give as God has prospered. Don't

concern yourself with the giving of others, just give according to the amount God has blessed you with.

I Corinthians 16:2

II Corinthians 8:12

B. Remember at all times the law of sowing and reaping.

II Corinthians 9:6

[Galatians 6:7-9](#)

C. True New Testament giving goes much further than a simple "tithe." It is turning over complete control of your life and resources to Jesus Christ. If God has control of your life, he will have control of your resources. All of the above principles of giving can be applied to your time and service as well as your money.

1. God's plan is that we be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ

Romans 8:29

2. God's essential nature is giving, manifest in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:16

I John 4:10

II Corinthians 8:9

3. When you give according to Biblical principles, you will manifest the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ in your life, resulting in God being glorified through you.

[II Corinthians 9:8-15](#)

[I Chronicles 29:8-13](#)

Basic questions.

A. How can I be sure I am giving to the right things and that my money (and time) is being used as God would have it?

1. Build your giving (time, service and money) around the local church. It is God's ordained institution for this age.

2. In most churches, a group of men and women are entrusted with the responsibility of handling the financial matters of the body. If you have prayerfully sought God's leadership in choosing a local church, and you have followed the principles in His word in doing so, then you ought to trust GOD to handle this matter properly. If you have good reason to believe that the church's resources are not being used scripturally, then speak to the individuals who have that responsibility. If the matter is not answered to your satisfaction, then perhaps you should pray about seeking another church.

II Corinthians 8:20-21

NOTES

GIVING

Lesson # 10

1. Give one reason from your own studies in the Bible why you believe that God doesn't need your money.

2. Before you consider giving any money to the Lord's work, you must give of yourself first. List three reasons for this.

A.

B.

C.

3. List three reasons for giving your resources.

A.

B.

C.

4. The Christian should give of his time, service, and resources first to the local church. Briefly explain why this is true.

5. List five areas in which money is to be used by the local church. Give a verse that best defines each point.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

6. The Christian's giving is to be from a _____. Why is this ?

7. Briefly detail the three levels of giving.

A.

B.

C.

8. "Tithing" is not a set law for the Christian. Instead of the "tithe", what are four attitudes on giving found in II Corinthians 9:7 ?

A.

B.

C.

D.

9. If GOD has control of your _____, HE will have control of your _____.

10. Explain what true New Testament giving is.

11. Who benefits the most from giving: God, the church, the pastor, or the giver?

12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson. (on the back page)

Key memory verses: (write these verses on the back page)

II Corinthians 9:7

Matthew 6:21

II Corinthians 8:9

True/false

- The Christian's primary responsibility in giving is his money.
- Christians are obligated to give to any good cause.
- If you don't give, the work of God will suffer.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson or any other lesson.