

Sermon Notes – 11.20.2022 - "Giving More than is Demanded"

Today is Thanksgiving Sunday

Colossians 3:14-15 Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. **15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Forasmuch as it is the indispensable duty of all men to adore the superintending providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with gratitude their obligation to him for benefits received, and to implore such farther blessings as they stand in need of; and it having pleased him in his abundant mercy not only to continue to us the innumerable bounties of his common providence, but also smile upon us in the prosecution of a just and necessary war...It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive powers of these United States, to set apart Thursday, the 18th day of December next, **for solemn thanksgiving and praise**; that with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and **consecrate themselves to the service of their divine benefactor**; and that together with their sincere acknowledgments and offerings, they may **join the penitent confession of their manifold sins, whereby they had forfeited every favor, and their humble and earnest supplication that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of remembrance**; that it may please him graciously to afford his blessings on the governments of these states respectively, and prosper the public council of the whole; to inspire our commanders both by land and sea, and all under them, with that wisdom and fortitude which may render them fit instruments, under the providence of Almighty God, to secure for these United States the greatest of all blessings, independence and peace; that it may please him to prosper the trade and manufactures of the people and the labor of the husbandman, that our land may yield its increase; to take schools and seminaries of education, so necessary for cultivating the principles of true liberty, virtue and piety, under his nurturing hand, and to prosper the means of religion for the promotion and enlargement of that kingdom which consisteth in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Give More than What is Demanded/Expected – Laying Aside Our Rights for God's Purposes

Matthew 5:40-42 "If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. **41** "Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. **42** "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

Again, Our Savior Uses Small Issues to Test Our Hearts – I Garment, 20 Minutes, a small gift, or Loan

Question#1 – What are you doing with the time God gave you? – Jim Moore's Story about reflecting

2 Timothy 2:3-4 Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

Question #2 – On average are you a giver, a keeper, or a taker?

- Thankfulness / Bitterness May be the Driver

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

1 John 3:16-18 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

Acts 20:35 "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

2 Corinthians 8:12 For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

A Heart Filled with True Thankfulness Produces a Very Different Motive for Giving

- Thanks for what I expected vs. Thanks for What I don't deserve

Why Give More than What is Expected

- Who Is Our Greatest Love Covenant With?
- The Difference Between a Love Covenant and a Contract –
 - o Giving More vs. What's the Least I Can Do

Our Witness / Our Light that Shines for All to See –

Showing God's Love by Giving More than What is Demanded or Expected