

We Should be GENEROUS Givers ~ 1 Timothy 6:17-19

→Scripture Reading - 1 Timothy 6.17-19, 2 Cor. 8.1-7

COLLECTION for the Church in Jerusalem ~ 1 Corinthians 16:1-3 (Specific Offering for a NEED)

[1] Now about the COLLECTION for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. [2] On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. [3] Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.

IMPLICATIONS

- Purpose for the Offering
- Offering Taken WEEKLY
- In PROPORTION to Income

No required AMOUNT or PERCENTAGE for giving to the Lord's work is specified in the NT. All giving to the Lord is to be FREE WILL giving and completely DISCRETIONARY. MacArthur

- Plan to Handle Offering HONESTLY

The GRACE of Giving ~ 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

[1] And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. [2] Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in RICH GENEROSITY. [3] For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own,

Giving is VOLUNTARY - God's people are not to give out of compulsion, manipulation, or intimidation. Freewill giving has always been God's plan. MacArthur

[4] they urgently pleaded with us for the PRIVILEGE of sharing in this service to the saints. [5] And they did not do as we expected, but they GAVE themselves FIRST to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. [6] So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. [7] But just as you EXCEL in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us - see that you also EXCEL in this GRACE of GIVING.

IMPLICATIONS

- Do we Consider GIVING a PRIVILEGE?
- They Gave themselves FULLY to God - including their MONEY

There is no way to grow to spiritual maturity without committing our finances to the Lord. Jesus does NOT really have our HEARTS if He does not have our MONEY. RK Hughes

Give GENEROUSLY ~ 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

[6] Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. [7] Each man should GIVE what he has DECIDED in his heart to give, NOT reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a CHEERFUL giver. [8] And God is able to make all GRACE abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Philippians 4:12-13 (NLT) I know how to live on almost NOTHING or with EVERYTHING. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. [13] For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

God gives back lavishly to generous, cheerful givers, NOT so they may satisfy selfish desires, but so they may meet the variety of needs others have. MacArthur

SUMMARY of PAUL'S Teaching on Giving

Principles of Generous Giving... (Summary Paul's teaching)

- Never GIVE to GET
- Give what you DECIDE to Give
- Give GENEROUSLY - SACRIFICIALLY

- all Offerings should be handled Carefully with HONESTY and INTEGRITY

IMPLICATIONS

→ Give REGULARLY

Exodus 25:2 (NIV) ...receive the offering for ME from each man **whose heart PROMPTS him to GIVE.**

→ Give WHAT You Decide to Give

Proverbs 3:9 (NET) **Honor the LORD from your wealth** and from the first fruits of all your crops...

No required AMOUNT or PERCENTAGE for giving to the Lord's work is specified in the NT. All giving to the Lord is to be FREE WILL giving and completely DISCRETIONARY. MacArthur

→ Give WILLINGLY and Generously

Mark 12:41-44 (HCS) 42 ...And a poor widow came and dropped in two tiny coins worth very little. ...44 For they all gave out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she possessed - all she had to live on.

→ Give SACRIFICIALLY when you're ABLE

MAKE all you can - SAVE all you can - GIVE all you can. John Wesley

→ Teach your kids to Give

TAKE AWAY??

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT) Teach those who are RICH in this world not to be PROUD and not to trust in their MONEY, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us ALL WE NEED for our enjoyment. [18] Tell them to use their money to DO good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to SHARE with others. [19] By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.