

Money Matters (Part III)
(Giving - Attitude of the Heart)
Turnpike Wesleyan – August 16, 2020

Scripture Text: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

Remember this - a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever." For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

Introduction

There is much more involved than just dropping money in the offering plate ... giving is an act of **worship** and presents an **attitude** of heart. *Share number of sermons on giving (3) as compared to other subjects (182).

It says the giver **trusts** God so much; he or she is willing to give a portion of their money to Him so He can use it to help **others** in His kingdom.

In looking through "Strong's Exhaustive Concordance," I counted how many times the word pray, in any format, is mentioned. Prayer is mentioned over **500** times. I did the same thing with the word 'love.' It is mentioned nearly **400** times.

Now, with that in mind, let me tell you how many times the word 'giving' is mentioned. It is mentioned nearly **2,000** times!

How Should We Give?

It is interesting that from our text today God tells us to give - not an **option**. Then He tells us to give **generously** (don't sow sparingly). Then He says that we need to have a right attitude about the whole matter - **cheerfully**.

But with all of this there is a **promise** ... He will **bless** the giver in return.

Did you know that this is the only place that God actually says, "**Test me**?" There are other texts that give this implication, like "taste of the Lord and see that He is good." But only in Malachi does God come right out and say, "**Test me**!"

What Should We Give?

We are told to give Him our **first** fruits, yet we take the first portion for ourselves and give Him what is **left**. We give Him the **stuff** we don't want anymore. We give to Him out of our **convenience**, rather than from our **love**.

When we figure out how much we can give in our tithes, we will always come out with a **comfortable** answer. But God is not interested in our being **comfortable**. He is interested in our being **obedient**.

To answer the question of "What Should We Give?" the answer would be to give the **first** portion of what we have - and the **best** of who we are. Stewardship involves four things: **Tithe** – **Talents** – **Time** – **Testimony**.

Our Second Best Does Not Honor God.

There is a big difference in what **God** wants from us and what the **world** wants from us. And so often we find ourselves standing in the **middle**, with our backs toward **God**, looking in the direction of the **world**.

Those who offer God their second best do not have an appropriate concept of God. If Jesus Christ died for me, then there is no **sacrifice** that is too much for me to give for Him.

Why Do We Hesitate in Giving to God?

We hesitate in giving because we are selfish by nature. "What's mine is mine and by the way, I want what's yours, too!"

Another reason we don't give, is that we don't see any **immediate** benefit out of it for **ourselves**.

Wrap Up

God does not want his church to be a house of **money**, but He does want you to be obedient even in this thing called **tithes**.

I believe it is a violation of God's word to tell people that God will give them back **\$1,000** for every **\$100** dollars they give. That would be kind of like a heavenly **slot** machine.

You should never give, focused on what you are going to get back. That is a selfish act and God does not reward that kind of giving. We should give because we want to be **obedient** to God.