



MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

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HOMEWORK: READ CHAP 38

R. HENDERSON / H. MOLLOY 23 MAR 2003

1.



MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

The Church: Her Service and Stewardship

QUESTION :

How Do You Glorify God By Your Service & Stewardship ?

What Should You Present To God ?

What Is The Purpose Of Your Spiritual Gift ?

How Much Should You Give Financially ?

Does Faith Rest & Good Works Mix ?

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2.



MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

The Church: Her Service and Stewardship

GLORIFYING GOD: BY EACH MEMBER OF CHRIST'S BODY

(Prerequisite: You are walking by faith - Col 2:6,7
You are abiding in Christ - Jn 15:5)

1. By presenting to Him

- Yourself - Rom 6:11-15
- Your body - Rom 12:1-2
- Your sacrifice of praise - Heb 13:15,16
- Your sacrifice of good works - Heb 13:16

2. By the Holy Spirit ministering His spiritual gift thru you

- He has given you at least one spiritual gift - 1 Cor 12:1,4,7
- Your spiritual gift is for the edification of the body - Eph 4:12
- (See additional notes on following page)

3. By God performing good works thru you

- God has predetermined His plan of good works You are His workmanship (product, vessel) for His good works - Eph 2:10
- God's desire is that His good works be part of your life - Phil 1:6

4. By your financial giving (See separate detailed notes)

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3.



MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

The Church: Her Service and Stewardship

GLORIFYING GOD: BY EACH MEMBER OF CHRIST'S BODY

[2. By the Holy Spirit ministering His spiritual gift thru you (cont'd) - Eph 4: 11-16]

• Spiritual Gifts are Identified With Individual Men:

- Apostles & prophets = foundational gifts (terminated) - 4:11
- Evangelists, pastors & teachers = functional gifts

• Purpose of Spiritual Gifts:

- For the perfecting (equipping) of the saints - 4:12
- For the work of the ministry
- For the edifying (spiritual growth) of the body

• The Goal of Spiritual Gifts:

- That we all come in the unity of the faith - 4:13
- "The faith" = the body of truth in Scripture
- All truth (doctrine) has its focus on Christ
- That you come to the knowledge (intimacy) of Christ
- That you be perfect (complete, mature)
- The measure (or standard) is the fullness of Christ (all that He is)

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4.



MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

The Church: Her Service and Stewardship

GLORIFYING GOD: BY EACH MEMBER OF CHRIST'S BODY

[2. By the Holy Spirit ministering His spiritual gift thru you (cont'd) -Eph 4: 11-16]

• **The Results Spiritual Gifts Being Ministered:** - 4:14-16

- **Stability of mind**
 - Not influenced by false doctrine
 - Not deceived by the trickery of men to mislead
- **Spiritual growth**
 - Considering all the details of life instrumental in your growth
 - The unity & spiritual growth of the body requires you functioning
 - Lovingly expressing truth in your life
- **The result is a mature body building itself up in love**

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING FINANCIALLY

I. What is financial giving?

A. Giving is fellowship (koinonia)

It is a financial sharing in common or partnership in God's ministry of the defense and confirmation (establishment) of the Gospel of the Person of Christ.

Phil. 1:5-7; Rom. 15:24-26; 2 Cor. 8:4

Note:

1. Every true ministry (i.e. God's ministry) is begun and is continually performed by God.
2. There are ministries not begun nor performed by God - but by Adam.
3. There are ministries begun by God but are no longer being performed by God - they are being performed by Adam.

B. Every believer should seek wisdom and judge the ministry he/she is supporting - otherwise it may not be true fellowship.

C. Giving is sharing in common with a ministry of the finances which is already God's. (i.e. God gives us the privilege of allocating His finances)

D. Giving to God's ministry is durative and consistent for as long as God performs the ministry.

Phil. 1:5; 4:10,15,16,18

E. Due to the lack of financial means a believer may not have the opportunity to give financially - but fellowship (care, concern, love, etc.) continues for the ministry and the ones ministering.

Phil. 1:5; 4:10

F. Giving is the fruit of abiding in Christ and being led by the Holy Spirit.

Phil. 4:7

G. Giving is a grace.

i.e. a financial gift is a grace gift - out from God's grace.

2 Cor. 8:4,7,19

II. What is the source & manner in giving?

A. The source of giving is out from grace. It is out from the new man who is created in Christ and led by the Holy Spirit. 2 Cor. 8:4,7,19

B. The giving of finances is only a portion of the totality of giving - the order in giving is:

1. Giving ourselves to the Lord -

- Making ourselves and everything that he has graciously given us available to Him.
- Seeking wisdom & guidance from Him on how we should allocate all that is His.

2. Giving ourselves to the ministry of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ -

- Exercising our spiritual gifts in the local church for the edification (building up in the faith) of the body.
- Participating in God's ministries in the defense & confirmation (establishment) of the gospel of Christ.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING FINANCIALLY

3. Giving financially. - 2 Cor. 9:7 - Answers 4 questions on giving:

(1) Who should give?

"Every man" = each one (who is in Christ)

(2) How should we give?

"As you purpose in your heart"

purpose = pro / aireomai

pro / aireomai

lit. before / to choose

Idea: a) of deliberation

b) of volition - of our choosing

c) of planning ahead of time

d) we decide (in fellowship with the Holy Spirit) - no one tells us

Note: The middle voice is used = the subject (you & I) are intensely involved in the action & it's results.

(3) How shouldn't we give?

a) "not grudgingly"

- Lit. "not out of grief or sorrow"

- These are emotions that come from within i.e. (old man)

b) "not of necessity"

- Lit. "not out of distress or compulsion"

- These are demands that come from without i.e. (a law system)

4. What is God's attitude?

God loves a hilarious giver.

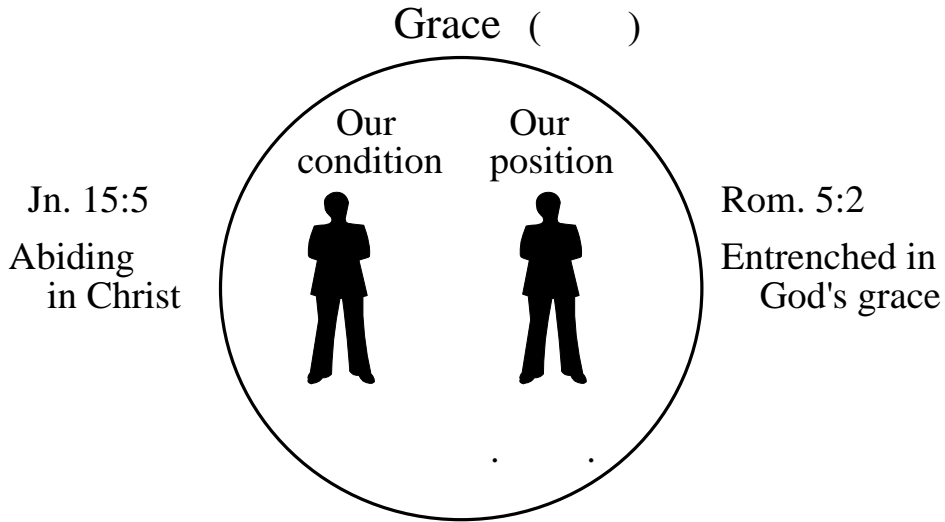
BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING FINANCIALLY

2 Cor. 9:7 Illustrated:

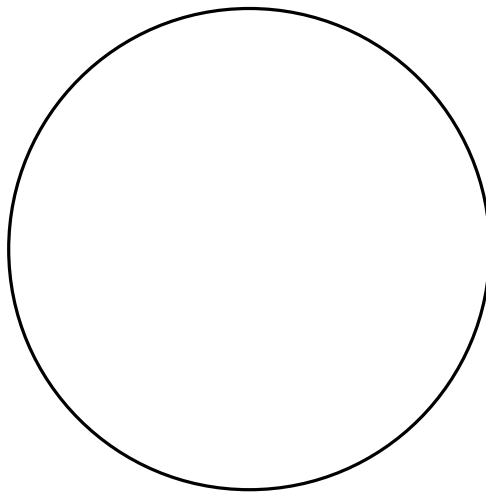
Question: How should we give?

Answer: 1. Out from our position & condition of grace.

2. As we purpose (choose & plan) in our hearts (new man).



Law (system)

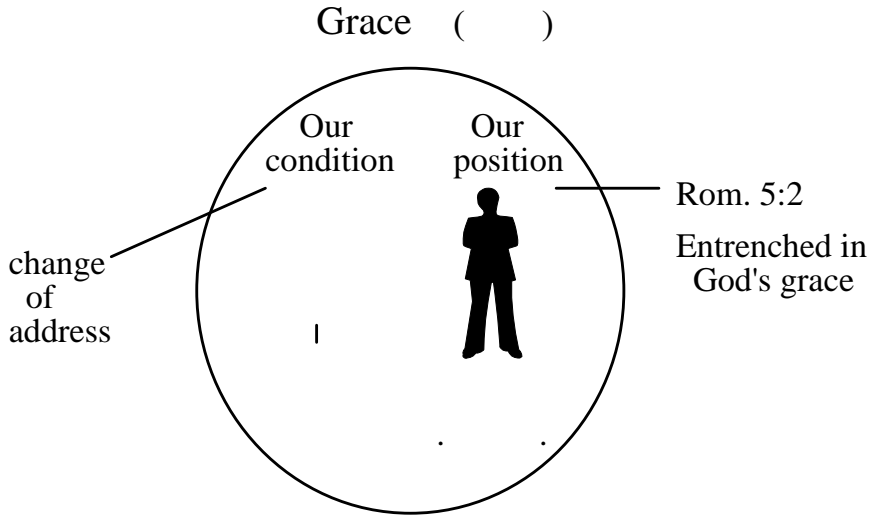


BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING FINANCIALLY

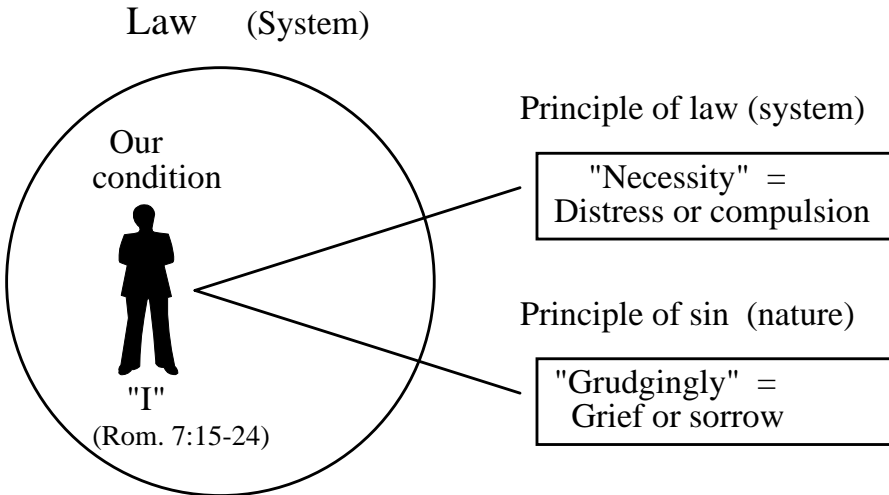
2 Cor. 9:7 Illustrated:

Question: How shouldn't we give?

Answer: 1. Not out of grief or sorrow (grudgingly)
2. Not out of distress or compulsion (necessity)



———— We fall from grace (Gal. 5:4)
In our condition (practice) - not position



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING FINANCIALLY

III. Tithing

A. What is tithing?

Definition: tithe = (asar) - Hebrew

A tithe is a tenth part of anything

e.g. a tenth part of seeds, fruit, herds, flocks

B. What is the history of tithing?

1. Pre-Mosaic law tithes: There are 2 instances in scripture where tithing was voluntarily performed:

a) by Abraham to Melchizedek - Gen. 14:20

b) by Jacob to God - Gen. 28:22

2. Mosaic Law Tithes:

a) By the 12 tribes of Israel to the Levites Num. 18:20-28; Lev. 27:30-32

- God did not give the Levites any physical inheritance - God himself was their inheritance

- The Levites were priests & also were to do service in the Tabernacle/Temple

- The tithes of the 12 tribes were an offering to the Lord & an inheritance to the Levites

- These tithes were 1/10th of the yearly increase of seed, fruit, cattle, sheep, etc. of the 12 tribes

- The Levites were to take 1/10th of these tithes given to them & offer them to the Lord

b) A special tithe by the 12 tribes of Israel - every 3rd year for the stranger, fatherless & widow Deut. 14:28,29

C. Is tithing mentioned in the N. T.?

1. Tithing is mentioned in the following N.T. references:

Mt. 23:23; Lu. 11:42; 18:12; Heb. 7:5,6,8,9

2. Every one of these passages either refer to the pre-Mosaic law tithes (i.e. Abraham tithing to Melchizedek) or the Mosaic law tithes. They are only references back to the O.T. - nothing else!! They are not commands nor exhortations to the Church!!

3. Observation: because something is mentioned in the N.T. it does not necessarily mean that it is a principle for the Church to follow!! e.g. sacrifices, circumcision, etc.

(Note: The reverse is also true - that we should institute something in the Church never mentioned in the N.T. e.g. infant baptism, dedication, etc. etc.)

D. Is tithing applicable for the Church?

1. God has revealed the majority of the Church truths (which were a mystery - never revealed in the O.T. or Gospels) through the Epistles of Paul.

2. Tithing is never mentioned in Paul's epistles

3. The Church (Body of Christ) is never commanded nor exhorted to tithe (give 10 % of either gross or net)

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING FINANCIALLY

D. Is tithing applicable for the Church? (cont.)

4. Tithing is diametrically opposed to the N.T. teaching of grace giving (see principles outlined in points I & II.
5. In Christ we have liberty & we are to entrench ourselves in that liberty. Gal. 5:1
 - a) We are free from our sin (adamic) nature & the law.
 - b) Tithing is part of a law system.
 - c) Tithing therefore is a yoke of bondage with which we are not to be entangled.

E. Why then is tithing taught, encouraged, & even demanded by local churches?

1. The primary reason is that the Word of Truth (the Scriptures) are not being rightly divided by many Pastor/Teachers. 2 Tim. 2:15
2. They are not teaching Scriptures from a dispensational framework & thus applying the teachings to Israel also to the Church.
3. All covenant theology will take the truths that apply only to the dispensation of Israel (e.g. tithing) & apply them to the Church (Body of Christ).
4. Non dispensational teaching will almost always mix law with grace - & they cannot be mixed since they are diametrically opposed.

IV. How much should I give?

A. Scripture does not prescribe to the new creature in Christ (the Believer), as to how much he/she should give.

1. There are no percentages!
2. There are no amounts!
3. There are no tithes!

B. Whatever amount we give, it is to come out from grace - as the believer purposes in his/her heart being led by the Holy Spirit. 2 Cor. 8:4; 9:7 The Lord is not concerned with the amount as He is with the heart & attitude. 2 Cor. 8:12

C. Grace sets no requirements, boundaries, constraints or limits on how much we are to give - we can never out give God. Rom. 8:32

D. Scripture does however give us some examples on the extent of the giving by the early church - they are:

1. There may be periods where a believer cannot give due to the lack of financial means or ability. Phil. 4:10
2. The Philippian believers were in deep poverty (beggarly poor) but were generous in their giving - it was out from grace & the power of God. 2 Cor. 8:2,3
3. The Corinthian believer were exhorted to abound in giving (i.e. above & beyond their own power) 2 Cor. 8:3,7
4. One sowing (giving) sparingly will reap sparingly (i.e. spiritual blessings). One sowing (giving) bountifully shall reap bountifully (i.e. spiritual blessings) 2 Cor. 9:6
5. God loves a cheerful (hilarious) giver 2 Cor. 9:7
 6. A God has prospered us 1 Cor. 16:2