

"WHY PREACH ON GIVING?"

(1 Tim. 6:9-10, 17-19)

INTRODUCTION

1. Once a year I have a special lesson on giving
 - a) Custom for many years.
 - a) At this time of year.
2. This is probably not near enough when you consider how much God has to say about it.
3. I have heard of some congregations whose contributions drop when a sermon is preached on giving!
4. **ILLUSTRATION:**
 - a) Bro. V. P. Black was invited to preach a week-end workshop on giving.
 - b) One man objected strongly, but was outvoted in the business meeting.
 - c) The day Bro. Black arrived, this man was absent.
 - d) When Bro. Black left, this man returned.
 - e) Sad outlook, but this attitude may be more prevalent than what we might think.
5. We are firmly convinced that:
 - a) Giving our money correctly,
 - b) as well as using our money correctly....
 - c) is just as important as any other activity of the Christian life!
6. Why preach on giving?
 - a) We believe there are many reasons that could be given.
 - b) This lesson to look at four.

DISCUSSION

I. COMMANDED BY GOD!

A. The very fact that God commands it....is reason enough!

- 1) 1 Cor. 16:1-2
- 2) It is not necessary to apologize, or water down lessons on giving!
- 3) God commands it, He wants it, that should be sufficient.

B. But God never has a command for us to do without good reasons for such!

- 1) "Father knows best!"
- 2) God knows best!!

- 3) The other 3 reasons.....helps to show God's purpose behind the command.

II. DANGERS CONNECTED WITH MONEY!

A. An example to illustrate:

- 1) The Israelites, with God's help, conquered city of Jericho.
- 2) God had warned....all the spoil goes into the Lord's treasury.
- 3) Afterwards, when they went against a small city of AI...failed!
- 4) The Lord told them the reason....someone sinned....kept spoil for self.
- 5) Josh. 7:20-21—"*And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.*"
- 6) Why did Achan sin?
 - a) Greed or Covetousness...He saw, He wanted, He took it.
 - b) That which should have been given to God.....was withheld!
- 7) Achan and all his family were stoned to death.
 - a) Terrible price to pay for a little silver & gold.
 - b) Terrible price for us to be punish for all eternity because we coveted our money.

B. Warnings in the New Testament:

- 1) Matt. 6:24
 - a) We will serve one of the two master....God or Mammon.
 - b) Money is necessary for survival...Food, Clothing, Shelter, Enjoyments.
 - c) But the warning is clear....You rule over Mammon or Mammon will rule over you.
- 2) Luke 16:11
 - a) If we do not rule over, handle money correctly.....
 - b) Then, who will commit to our trust the true riches?
- 3) Mark 4:19

- a) Riches can be deceitful.....mislead us.....corrupt our thinking.
 - b) They can cause us to become unfruitful as a Christian.
 - c) Lose our soul over money.
- 4) 1 Tim. 6:17
- a) It is uncertain riches....promise many things, but cannot deliver.
 - b) They are not dependable.
 - c) Only the living & true God is dependable.
- 5) 1 Tim. 6:10
- a) Love of money has caused much, much evil in the world.
 - b) But it can also cause one to err from the faith.
 - c) It can also bring many sorrows to our lives.

III. PROMISES GIVEN TO THOSE WHO GIVE & USE MONEY WISELY.

A. Listing of some of promises:

- 1) Acts 20:35
- a) Greater blessings in giving than in receiving.
 - b) ILLUSTRATION
 - 1—Difference between sponge & cloud.
 - 2—Cloud receives to give.
 - 3—Sponge receives to keep.
 - c) Remedy for the sponge....squeeze it!
 - d) Do we have to be squeezed to give...or God squeeze us?
- 2) Mal. 1:6-8; 3:10
- a) They were giving, but inferior things---not properly.
 - b) They were cursed!
 - c) But God wanted to give them a blessing, but could not because of their wrong outlook and actions.
- 3) 1 Tim. 6:18-19
- a) Proper use of money prepares a place for us with God.
 - b) Laying up treasures in heaven.
 - c) ILLUSTRATION:
 - 1—Special drive to raise money at a certain congregation.
 - 2—All kinds of things were given.

3—One lady gave her wedding band.

4—Preacher learned who it was...wanted to give it back to her.

5—Her reply: *"I didn't give my ring to you, I gave it to the*

Lord."

d) She gave to the Lord because He is the one who promised a blessing.

IV. PLEASES GOD!

A. Our giving is a living biography of our life.

1) It indicates what:

- a) Our hopes are;
- b) Our dreams;
- c) Our values;
- d) Our priorities.

2) It tells where our heart really is. *"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* (Matt. 6:21)

B. Proper giving proves our love to God.

1) 2 Cor. 8:8—*"I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love."*

- a) The Corinthians voluntary gifts to help the poor saints in Jerusalem would show how much they loved them and God!
- b) Love wants to please the one it loves!

2) ILLUSTRATION:

- a) A little 6 year old boy had saved up \$0.40.
- b) His dad reminded him:
 - 1—Tomorrow is the Lord's Day;
 - 2—Need to give to the Lord.
- c) His dad promised him: *"Give generously to the Lord & you will be blessed."*
- d) When the time came, he gave one penny.
- e) Money in his pocket was better than depending on God blessing him.
- f) When the dad asked his son how much he gave...told him...Ashamed of his son!

3) Is God ashamed of us, our giving?

CONCLUSION

1. What about our giving?
 - a) Should I just ignore the WARNINGS the Bible gives?
 - b) Am I truly concerned about laying up treasures in heaven?
 - c) Do I really want to PLEASE God?
 - d) What am I revealing about myself to others & to God in my giving?
2. Do we understand why there is a need for preaching on proper giving?
3. The greatest gift we can give is..... ourselves to the Lord!