

Church Finances

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Introduction

- God in His wisdom put up a plan for financing work of the church and this plan like all others God has given must be put into operation by faithfulness upon the part of the Christians.
- This obligation is an individual one. We must follow this plan with zeal and make it work according as God purposed it.

The Individual in God's Plan

- Giving is to be an individual matter
1 Cor. 16:1-2
- Individual enterprise to make it possible 1 Thess. 4:11-12; 2 Thess. 3:10-13. Eph. 4:28
- Note: The Church is not supposed to enter into some business enterprise in order to be able to finance her work.

The Motive in Giving

1. A divine command Matt. 5:42; Lk. 6:38
2. Helping the poor will obtain the Lord's help Ps. 41:1-3
3. Make us God-like Lk. 6:35-38
4. It enlarges the heart when sincerely done and purifies it of petty scruples and burdensome follies Lk. 11:38-42
5. It lends acceptance to our prayers Acts 10:1-4

The Motive in Giving

6. A means of laying up treasures in heaven 1 Tim. 6:17-19
7. It opens for those who practice it the doorway into the bounties of God's grace Gal. 6:6-7; 2 Cor. 9:6; Lk. 6:38
8. It is the means of glorifying God 2 Cor. 9:12-15
9. It is the way to be happy Acts 20:35

The Manner of Giving

- 1. The New testament plan 1 Cor. 16:1-2
 - 1. Periodic, “upon the first day of the week”
 - 2. Personal, “let each one of you”
 - 3. Provident, “Lay by him in store”
 - 4. Proportionate, “As he may prosper”
 - 5. Preventive, “The there be no collections when I come”

Other Principles governing the matter of giving

1. Voluntary, free will offering of a willing heart and open hand “not grudgingly nor of necessity” 2 Cor. 9:7

2. Purposeful, planned, systemic. “let each man do according as he hath purposed in his own heart” 2 Cor. 9:7

3. Confidently, He who believes God’s promises can give liberally without any fear of being causes to suffer by doing so 2 Cor. 9:8-11; Matt. 6:33

Measure of Giving

1. Measure by ability “as prospered”
1 Cor. 16:1-2 “Accepted according to ability” 2 Cor. 9:6
2. “Bountifully, not sparingly” 2 Cor. 9:6
3. The grace of liberality 2 Cor. 8:2, 6,7.