

MONETARY MATURITY: UNSELFISH GIVING I Cor 16:1-18

Introduction:

- A. The saying, "It is more blessed to give, than to receive."?
1. Was authored by _____ (Acts 20:35)
 2. How does your p_____ show that you believe this truth?
- B. The Christian life is an un_____ lifestyle (Lk 9:23)
1. We should rejoice when we receive, but realize that receiving requires no w_____.
 2. The work is in g_____, and so we should rejoice even more when we give.
- C. The Corinthians Christians were being self-centered in their relationships to one another:
1. There were d_____ among them (1:12).
 2. They were p_____ in their action of overlooking sin, clothing it with being accepting (5:1,2).
 3. They were taking each other to c_____ (6:1), instead of resolving their differences in a Christian manner.
 4. Their marriages were b_____ on selfishness (7:1,2).
 5. They were s_____ blocks to others (8:9).
 6. They got d_____ at their fellowship feasts (11:20,21).
 7. They were i_____ spiritual gifts that they did not have in order to be seen as spiritual (12:14-18; 14:6-9).
- D. Paul gives them an opportunity to be unselfish in their giving (1 Cor 16:1-18)
1. Today we are going to focus on the monetary aspect of giving.
 2. In the text, there are three principles of giving in a m_____ way.

GIVE P_____

- A. The situation
1. A severe d_____ had hit the region of Judea.
 2. The population of Jerusalem was at risk of s_____ since they had to rely on outside trade (the population of Jerusalem was about 600,000 compared to 850,000 today).

B. The obligation

1. Believers are to help other believers who are in n_____.
2. The h_____ of Stephanus was an example of responding to this need and Paul wanted the Corinthians to follow their example (v. 15)

C. The first principle of mature giving is to give purposefully.

1. God promises to meet all our needs as long as we seek His kingdom f_____ (Matt 6:33)
 - a. This requires us to focus on building His kingdom _____ (being a witness to unbelievers)
 - b. This requires us to focus on building His kingdom _____ (showing unselfish love to fellow believers – Jn 13:35).
 - 1) Meeting p_____ needs with our money (e.g. starving saints – v. 1)
 - 2) Meeting s_____ needs with our money (e.g. supporting Paul and Timothy in their service vv. 5-11).
2. Purposeful giving works to fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20.
 - a. Our church's ministry p_____ puts the monetary into spiritual terms (see copies on the foyer table).
 - b. We must respond to s_____ needs and ongoing needs.

GIVE R_____

A. Paul commands the Corinthian Christians

1. To set aside their contributions on the first day of the week, which was Sunday (lit. the first day after the S_____).
2. To s_____ those contributions.
 - a. These contributions would be gathered together in a one-time c_____ when Paul arrived in Corinth.
 - b. They probably stored their offerings individually

B. Application – how to give regularly

1. Set aside money when you get p_____
2. Save that money and give it as an offering when you come to a s_____ or by sending it in the mail.

GIVE P_____

- A. The Corinthian Christians were to determine the amount of their contribution according to their i_____
1. Notice Paul does not set a fixed amount, for a s_____ would obviously could not give as much as a person who was engaged in a t_____, like carpentry or tentmaking.
 2. Notice Paul does not set a p_____.
 3. The amount was left up to the individual, which gives them the opportunity to be m_____ in their decision.
- B. Tithing
1. The word literally means, t_____
 2. Preachers, teachers disagree on how to apply the tithe
 - a. On the g_____; on the take home pay; or the amount left over after paying for everything?
 - b. Does it apply only to the church offerings; or does it apply to supporting m_____ directly, or helping a person in need?
 3. The tithe was part of the Old Covenant (Lev 27:30)
 - a. It supported the p_____; it supported the t_____ system; and it stored up food for the feast days.
 - b. The New Covenant makes the Old Covenant obsolete (Heb 8:13) because it fulfills the Old Covenant.
 - 1) All believers are p_____ (1 Pet 2:9)
 - 2) Each believer's b_____ is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19)
- C. What reflects proportional giving in a mature way?
1. Don't give God the leftovers, but make God's k_____ a priority (Matt 6:33)
 - a. God promises to provide for all my n_____ (list them and use those provisions for them)
 - b. The remainder is you're a_____ (net income minus needs).
 2. Give out of your abundance to:
 - a. The local church's ministry plan
 - b. To special collections (e.g. mission offerings)
 - c. To helping others on an individual basis.