

BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

CCCG: Church Giving 1

April 12, 2024

Preliminary

Basis: Every good and perfect gift comes from God the Father... Jas 1:17

Note: When God gives, He gives with a wonderful generosity

- Blessing of creation... Gen 1:22, 28; cf. Ps 104
- Promises to His people... Gen 17:1-22; 22:17; Ex 1:7, 20; 32:13
- Provision of rich prosperity... Deut 28:11
- Promise of salvation to His people... Ps 5:7; 31:19; 51:1

Point: God giving is limitless – He gave us His Son, and His Son He gave Himself...

Texts: Jn 1:14; 3:16; Act 20:28; 2 Cor 9:15

- Though Christ is rich beyond all telling, He became poor for our sakes so that we might become rich... 2 Cor 8:9; Jn 6:32, 33, 51
- He make us rich with every spiritual blessings... Eph 1:3-14; 4:7-13

Wrong view: People give so that they may be blessed by God

Right view: The Christian is able to give because God first provided us with all our needs

- He gives to us that we may be in a position to give and be generous in our own giving... 2 Cor 9:11

1. Definition of Tithing in the OT

Note: The Jews were instructed to tithe (to give the tenth part) their cereal, and fruit crops and their livestock... Lev 27:30-33

Notice: There is no involvement of money to give as a tithe in the OT...

- Underlying the tithe was the basic idea that the earth is in the Lord's and everything in it (He just lent it for us)... Ps 24:1

Point: Tithing came to mean an expression of thanksgiving to God for His generosity... Gen 28:20-22

Function: The Jews paid their tithes to the Levites who served to them as their priest... Num 18:20-24; cf Heb 7:5

- (a) In return for the service they rendered at the Tent of Meeting... Num 18:21
- (b) As compensation for their scarcity and need

2. The Proper Characteristic of Christian Giving in the NT

Note 1: Tithing is already abolished in the NT since we are no longer under the Mosaic Covenant Law... [More on the next topic]

Note 2: Sometimes tithing is mentioned in the NT for rebuking the boastful and injustice attitude of the Jews... Cf. Mt 23:23; Lk 21:1-4

Right Term: Christian offerings/contribution(s)... for the needy, church activities, and church's servants...

Point: It is now not necessarily refer to a particular percentage, but rather, an attitude of cheerful/generous giving...

2 Corinthians 9:7 = *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

(a) It will be, above all, a reflection of God's dealing with us and an outflow of the giving of ourselves to the Lord... Mt 15:32-33; 2 Cor 8:15

(b) Christians are called to give cheerfully, generously, and according to their means or ability... Act 11:29; 1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 8:3, 4

➤ It will sometimes be costly and frequently generous beyond measure... Lk 21:4, 2 Cor 8:2, 3, 1 Jn 3:16

➤ With a desire to provide help and relief for those who are in need, especially fellow-Christians... Act 11:29

➤ With a desire to be faithful in supporting God's work and God's servants... 1 Cor 9:1-14; Gal 6:6

1 Timothy 5:18 = *You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain... The laborer deserves his wages*

(c) It will be regular, systematic, and without pious ostentation... Mt 6:2-4

(d) It will look for nothing in return... Lk 14:12-14

(e) Christians should prioritize one's church when giving... 1 Tim 5:3-5, 8, 17, 18; Gal 6:6

Point to Ponder: The reason why God gave man a work, strength, knowledge and wisdom, is to earn and in order to give away... Eph 4:28

- Our generosity in giving is a demonstration of God's character and a response to what He has done for us... Eph 5:1

3. Marks of Generous Giving

(a) You see your role as a good steward

➤ You're merely returning to God what rightly belongs to Him... Mt 6:19-20; 1 Tim 6:7; 1 Pt 4:10; Rom 14:12

[George Müller] – "It is the Lord's order, that, in whatever way he is pleased to make us his stewards, whether as to temporal or spiritual things, if we are indeed acting as *stewards* and not as *owners*, he will make us stewards over *more*."

(b) With a joy of giving to kingdom causes

➤ Supporting the works of the Church, evangelism, Christian education, campus ministry, cultural renewal, overseas missions

(c) You are giving sacrificially by trusting God's Word without anxiety and pride... 2 Cor 9:11

(d) You knew that God loves a cheerful giver... Pro 22:9; Mt 6:20

Note: Each one will receive his own reward in heaven according to his own labor on earth... 1 Cor 3:8

Matt 16:27 = *"he shall reward every man according to his work"*

Christian giving is the evidence of God's grace at work in us