

## Worship of the Church – Giving II Cor. 9:6-11

*Thesis: To show the Biblical command to give and to encourage us to be liberal givers.*

### Introduction:

- A. The topic of giving to the Lord's church has never been popular.
  - 1. Each time it is preached, it is a direct challenge to the heart of every listener.
  - 2. Each of us needs to think about what we give and why we give it.
  - 3. We could all use lessons like this from time to time.
  
- B. Paul tells us what kind of attitude we should have when it comes to our giving.

### I. God has always expected His people to give.

#### A. The idea of "tithing" predated the law of Moses.

- 1. **Gen. 14:17-20**
  - a. Abraham and 318 of his trained servants rescue Lot from the kings that attacked Sodom.
  - b. After this victory, Melchizedek, the "king of Salem" and "the priest of God Most High" blesses Abraham.
  - c. Abraham, in turn, gives Melchizedek a tithe of the spoils that he had collected (14:20).
- 2. **Gen. 28:22** (Jacob's vow at Bethel) - *And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.*

#### B. Israel was required to give a tithe of all that they possessed.

- 1. **Lev. 27:30-32** (God's command to Moses to give to the people) - *And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S. It is holy to the LORD. {31} If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it. {32} And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD.*
- 2. **Num. 18:21-28**
  - a. God speaks to Aaron and Moses concerning the tithes that Israel was to offer.
  - b. All of the tithes that the people gave were to go to the tribe of Levi because they did not receive an inheritance of land in the Promised Land (18:21-24).
  - c. However, of the tithes that they received, the Levites were to offer a tenth (tithe) back to the Lord (18:25-28).
  - d. In other words, they had to pay a tithe of the tithe.
- 3. There are also several other passages in the Pentateuch that deal with the command to tithe.

C. It is also important to remember that the people of Israel could give a “freewill offering.”

1. Ex. 35
  - a. Israel has left the land of Egypt and it is time for them to build the tabernacle of the Lord.
  - b. In order to have the materials that were needed for the tabernacle, Moses says that anyone who “is of a willing heart” should bring these materials to Him (Ex. 35:5).
  - c. Because the people gave so much, Moses tells the people that they had enough material to build the tabernacle (Ex. 36:6-7).
  - d. Ex. 35:29 – Moses describes this offering as a “freewill offering.”
2. Lev. 22:21-23 – God permits Israel to offer a “freewill offering” of their possessions.
3. Deut. 16:10 - Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you.
4. When Israel came back out of captivity, they offered a “freewill offering” to the Lord (Ezra 3:5).

God has always expected His people to give.

II. There is an attitude with our giving (9:6-7).

A. Our giving should be done liberally (9:6).

1. We should not hold back in our giving.
  - a. II Cor. 8:1-4
    - 1) The churches of Macedonia were liberal in their giving.
    - 2) They gave “beyond their ability” (8:3).
  - b. Rom. 12:8 - “...he who gives, with liberality;”
2. The early church was liberal in their giving.
  - a. Acts 2:44-45
  - b. Acts 4:34-35
  - c. They sold their lands and possessions so that others would not go without.

B. Our giving should be done willfully (9:7).

1. No one forces us to give.
  - a. We give as we have purposed in our heart.
  - b. We do not give because we have to.
  - c. “God loves a cheerful giver.”
2. We must give back to God because we want to.
  - a. II Cor. 8:12 - For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.
  - b. Remember the widow’s two mites.
    - 1) Lk. 21:3-4 - So He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; {4} for all these out of

their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.”

- 2) The widow gave willfully of all that she had; while the rich men gave only what they would not miss.
3. One of the things that will hinder our willful giving is materialism.
  - a. On numerous occasions, Jesus warns of materialism.
  - b. **Mt. 6:19-21** - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; {20} but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. {21} For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
  - c. **Lk. 12:15** - And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”
    - 1) Then Jesus tells the Parable of the Rich Fool.
  - d. When we are not concerned with material possessions, we will be able to give liberally.
  - e. We must understand that all of our possessions belong to God.

**C. Many times the question is asked, “Do I have to tithe today?”**

1. Brethren, this is a terrible question to ask because it demonstrates an attitude of wanting to give as little as possible to the Lord.
  - a. We should be asking, “How much can I give back to the Lord?”
  - b. Remember, we must have the proper attitude in our giving.
  - c. It is very true that God never put a specific percentage on how much we should give under the new law.
  - d. However, do you think that God would expect His people today (who live under a new, perfect covenant) to give less than those who lived under an old, imperfect covenant?
2. Consider this: What if God gave you ten times the amount you contributed on Sunday?
  - a. Add a zero to the amount you gave today.
  - b. Would you be satisfied with receiving this amount each week?
3. In reality, our giving is a test of our faith.
  - a. Do we give liberally?
  - b. Do we give willfully?
4. Is God pleased with our giving?

**III. We give because of what God has done for us (9:8-11, 15).**

**A. God abundantly gives us the things that we need for this life.**

1. God is able to give us these good things (9:8).
2. Previously, we had spoken of the “freewill offering” that Israel gave to build the tabernacle of God (Ex. 35).
  - a. Have you ever wondered where Israel got those possessions?
  - b. Remember, for four hundred years, they were slaves in Egypt.
  - c. God had given these possessions to the people.

- a. **Ex. 11:2-3a** - “Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her neighbor, articles of silver and articles of gold.” {3} And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians.
  - b. **Ex. 12:35-36** - Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. {36} And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.
3. Today, God has promised to give us these blessings (**9:9-11**).
- a. **Mt. 6:33** - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
  - b. **II Pet. 1:3** - as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,
  - c. **Lk. 6:38** - Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

#### **B. Most of all, God has given us Christ.**

- 1. There is no way that we could repay God for this gift.
- 2. **I Cor. 8:8-9**
- 3. **Rom. 5:6** - For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
- 4. **I Pet. 1:19** - [We are redeemed] with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.
- 5. If God has given us such a great gift, we should be willing to give back to Him liberally and willingly.

#### **Conclusion:**

- A. The Macedonians excelled in giving for one simple reason: “they first gave themselves to the Lord” (**II Cor. 8:5**).

  - 1. Today, if we will first give ourselves to the Lord, we will excel in our giving.
  - 2. Only then will we be willing to give liberally, willingly and cheerfully.

- B. Our giving is perhaps the best determiner of our faithfulness to God because no one knows if we are giving properly except God.

  - 1. The treasurer may know how much we give, but he does not know how much we make.
  - 2. Our boss may know how much we make, but not how much we give.