

# In God We Trust?

## Part 3

### The Giving Church

#### Review:

- God speaks of money more than anything else, almost 2500 times
- Why? A dangerous culture, an ever present danger
- God loves us and wants to protect us

#### 1 Timothy 6:9-10 (NIV)

People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

### So How Ought We to Act in the Church?

#### A look at the Corinthian church

#### 1<sup>st</sup> It starts with ownership. We belong to the Lord.

##### 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (NASB95)

Now, brethren, we *wish* to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup>that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. <sup>3</sup>For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, *they gave* of their own accord, <sup>4</sup>begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, <sup>5</sup>and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

##### 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> God wants believers to grow in generosity the grace of giving.

- God works through people

##### 2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)

But just as you excel in everything in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us see that you also excel (**grow**) in this grace of giving.

##### 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> God supplies so we can be generous in the church.

##### 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (NIV)

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

##### 2 Corinthians 8:14-15 (NIV)

At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little."

#### 4<sup>th</sup> How are we to give?

##### A. Give cheerfully; In faith; What we sow we reap.

- Remember He sows the seed and then gives the harvest (2 Corinthians 9:10)

##### 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

## **B. Give what we can based on our income.**

### **2 Corinthians 8:12 (NIV)**

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

### **1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)**

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

## **C. Give faithfully, trusting the church leaders, oversight.**

### **2 Corinthians 8:19-21 (NIV)**

What is more, he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering, which we administer in order to honor the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help. We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.

### **I believe in tithing. Ten percent is a place to start.**

#### **Because the Old Testament commanded it**

##### **Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)**

"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.

##### **Malachi 3:8-10 (NIV)**

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse the whole nation of you because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

#### **Because Jesus said to**

##### **Luke 11:42 (NIV)**

"Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

#### **Because the early church practiced it**

##### **1 Corinthians 16:2-3 (NIV)**

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.

### **Why do we tithe? We do what we do because we are saved not to get saved.**

##### **2 Corinthians 8:4 (NIV)**

they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.

## **5<sup>th</sup> This test leads to God's glory.**

#### **Giving is a visible confession**

##### **2 Corinthians 9:12-15 (NIV)**

This service that you perform is not only **supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.** <sup>13</sup>Because of the service by which you have **proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ**, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup>And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

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