# **GIVING AS WORSHIP**

1Cor.16:1.2

#### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Invariably when preacher begins to preach on giving, many think he wants more money, but that's not the case.
- B. Responsibility to preach about giving, is like preaching about any other act of worship or anything else for that matter.
- C. Giving to God is a part of worship just as much as observance of the Lord's supper, singing, praying, or teaching
- D. Help all of us if we would think about our giving as part of our worship to God and not just "getting into our pocketbooks".
- E. Remember again what worship is (see chart) and think with me about giving as worship

## DISCUSSIÓN:

#### I. CHRISTIANS ARE STEWARDS OF GOD'S PROPERTY

- A. Man possesses nothing in the absolute sense; all belongs to God 1Chron 29:11-14
  - 1. The earth is the Lord's Psa.24:1
  - 2. God gives the power to get wealth Deut.8:11, 17,18
- B. As stewards we are accountable to God Matt.25:14-30; Rom.12:1; 1Cor.4:1,2; 1Pet.4:10

### II. MOTIVE FOR GIVING DETERMINS IF IT IS WORSHIP

- A. One can give to a particular cause (cubscouts, etc.) even to the treasury of the Lord's church and it not be worship!
- B. Love for God should prompt our giving
  - 1. Creator and giver of every gift Acts 17:24; Jas.1:17
  - 2. Showed his love by giving his Son Rom.5:8; Jhn.3:16
- C. Love for Christ a motivating force
  - 1. He gave himself for us, (greatest sacrifice) 2Cor.8:8,9
  - 2. Can we be stingy with God who gave His best? or hold back and begrudge Christ who held nothing back from us? Note what happens when we hold back that which belongs to God Acts 5:1-11
- D. Cheerful heart motivates 2Cor.9:6,7 Not grudging or Nec

# III. GIVING IS A COMMAND (ORDER) OF GOD 1Cor.16:1,2

- A. WHEN: Upon the first day of the week
  - 1. First day of week is of special significance to Christians
    - a. Day the Lord arose Mk.16:9
    - b. Day church was established Acts 2:1-42
    - c. Day disciples met to "break bread" Acts 20:7
  - 2. No other day or time given for giving into a common treasury as an assembly (church)
    - a. No yard sales, pie suppers, etc to raise money
    - b. No collections during week or from non-members
- B. WHY: necessary for church to do its work

- 1. 1Cor.16:1,2; 2Cor.9:5 specific command for the work of benevolence
  - a. However, by inference we know treasury was used in evangelism see chart on use of the treasury
  - b. 1Cor.16:1,2 only passage commanding specific time for church contributions, conclude it as time Lord authorized for raising funds for work of church
- 2. There are other times when, acting as an individual Christian one may give to support the cause of Chris t(Prov.19:17; Gal.6:6; Heb.13:2)
- 3. However, we must not omit our responsibility in sharing in the collective work of the church (see word study chart here)

## IV. WHO MUST DO THE GIVING?

- A. "Every one of you" 1Cor.16:2
  - 1. No Christian blessed by God is exempt regardless of age, sex or marital status.
  - 2. If one is responsibile to the Gospel, he should give in harmony with principles which regulate our giving
  - 3. We must first give ourselves to the Lord 2Cor.8:5
  - 4. What we give proves our sincerity or our love 2Cor.8:8
- B. Wrong attitudes toward giving
  - 1. "Let wealthy do the giving," Mk.12:41-44
  - 2. "Too many bills this month so cut Lord out" Matt.6:33
  - 3. "Out of town this week so no need to give" Eph.4:16

### V. HOW MUCH MUST THE CHRISTIAN GIVE?

- A. "As God has prospered him" 1Cor.16:2 (proportional to our income) Malachi said offer it to your governor Mal.1:8
  - 1. N.T. does not specify a percentage
  - 2. O.T. specified a tenth plus other offerings
- B. The N. T. makes a distinction between giving "sparingly" and "bountifully" 2Cor.9:6,7
  - 1. See chart on the giving of another congregation
  - 2. If every member gave proportionately as you, could the Lord's work be done. We are either generous or covetous
- C. The Jews were required to give a tenth (tithe), now remember what the Lord said about our righteousness exceeding the righteousness of Scribes and Pharisees Matt.5:20
- D. Must not use liberty of Gospel as a release from sacrificial giving, lest we be found robbing God Mal.3:8

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. "Giving is not God's way of raising money; it is God's way of raising children!" Robert Harkrider
- B. We cannot buy our way into heaven but we can be so stingy as to not be allowed in.
- C. We must give as prospered because in judgement we will prosper as we have given Lk.6:38
- D. Tombstone: "What I spent I used; What I saved I lost; What I gave, I have!"