

Giving

To God First

2Co 8:5 And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but **first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us** by the will (*Gk.2307-choice, purpose*) of God.

- God purposed that we are to give of ourselves to Him first and then we will understand who we take care of next. God first, neighbor next.

Luk 10:27 ...love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,...and thy neighbour as thyself.

Jas 1:18 Of His own will begat (*Gk.616-to generate*) He us with the word of truth (*the gospel*), that we should be a kind of firstfruits (*Gk.536-a beginning of sacrifice*) of His creatures. (Rom 12:1 ...present your bodies a living sacrifice...)

- It was His choice **also** to regenerate us through the death, burial and resurrection of His dear Son. He put us over the physical welfare of the Only Begotten so it should be our duty to put Him first in our giving.

Pro 3:9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the **firstfruits of all thine increase**: 10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

- Give to God first as we prosper because all we have came and will continue to come from Him.

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Discrete

Mat 6:1 Take heed that ye do not your alms (*Gk.1654-compassionateness, that is, [as exercised towards the poor] beneficence [Webster: 1. being kind 2. a charitable act or gift], or [concretely] a benefaction [Webster:1. the art of helping, especially by charitable gifts]) [i.e.-loving, caring act toward others] before (Gk.1715-in front of, [in presence, sight] of) men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. 2 Therefore when thou doest *thine* alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 3 But when thou doest alms, **let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth**: 4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly.*

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Selfless

Luk 6:30 Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask *them* not again (*Gk.523-to demand back*). 31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. 32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. 33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. 34 And **if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive**, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love ye your

enemies, and do good, and lend, **hoping for nothing again** (*don't expect anything in return*); and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for He is kind unto the unthankful (*Gk.884-ungrateful*) and to the evil*. **36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.** **37** Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: **38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.**

Mat 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the **evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the **just and on the unjust**.*

- God takes care of those who take care of **others** as well as those who take care of themselves. Our "*selflessness*" is to rise above what the world defines as unselfish. It is to be in the same manner in which God gave His Son.

Heb 13:1 Let brotherly love continue. **2** Be not forgetful to entertain strangers (*Gk.5381-hospitableness*): for thereby some have entertained (*showed that hospitality toward*) angels (*Gk.32-messenger*) **unawares.** **3** Remember **them that are in bonds**, as **bound with them** (*be sympathetic of their imprisonment to the point of feeling it*); and them which suffer adversity (*Gk.2558-to maltreat*), as being yourselves also **in the body.** (Take it personally!)

- They didn't know whether or not the brother knocking at their door was a traveling evangelist so they were to take them in regardless and lodge them without expecting anything in return. At the time of Jesus' birth there were so many people in Bethlehem for the census that people ran out of room. Even the inn that was located in Bethlehem was full.

Luk 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

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Giving Financially to the Lord's Work Old Testament

Deu 14:22 Thou shalt truly tithe (*Heb.6237-accumulate; but used only as denominative from Heb.6235-to take or give a tenth*) all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. **23** And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which He shall choose to place His name there, the tithe (*Heb.4643-from Heb.6240-a tenth*) of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.

Luk 11:42 **But woe unto you, Pharisees! For ye tithe mint and rue** (*Gk.4076-from it's thick or fleshy leaves*) and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

- The **Pharisees** gave a tenth of everything even down to the smallest grain they took in. But they forgot what the law **also** stood for. It protected the innocent while punishing the evil doer. They did the one but bypassed the other.

New Testament

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection **for the saints***, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. **2** Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, **as God hath prospered** (*Gk.2137-to help on the road, succeed in reaching; to succeed in business affairs*) **him**, that there be no gatherings when I come.

- the saints- at **Jerusalem** were poor and this was **Paul's** way of relieving their poverty. These would have been those who were converted by the apostles after the event of **Acts 8** where **Saul** (*now Paul*) persecuted the church and only the apostles were left there.

Rom 15:27 It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty (*Gk.3784-to be under obligation*) is also to minister (*Gk.3008-to perform religious or charitable functions*) unto them in carnal (*Gk.4559-pertaining to the flesh*) things.

- lay by in store- since the average worker received his wages daily*, and **Paul** did not want to disturb their employment when he came, it was necessary for the brethren to save a certain amount from each pay and put it aside for when they gathered on Sunday for worship. **Paul** then could have showed up on a Thursday and whoever was in charge of the treasury would give him the proceeds for the work in **Jerusalem**.

*Mat 20:8 So when **even** was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and **give them their hire**, beginning from the last unto the first.*

2Co 9:6 But this *I say*, He which **soweth sparingly** shall **reap also sparingly**; and he which **soweth bountifully** shall **reap also bountifully**. **7** Every man **according as he purposeth in his heart**, *so let him give*; not grudgingly (*Gk.3077-sadness*) [*In other words; not sorry to give.*] or of necessity (*Gk.318-needful*) [*In other words; don't give as though you have to but as you truly want to*]; for God loveth a cheerful (*Gk.2431-propitious* [*Webster: favorably inclined*] *prompt or willing*) giver.

- We are to give as we have prospered and as we have purposed but with a willing spirit. Once we have purposed an amount to be given to the **Lord's** work, at that point it is the **Lord's** even before it's placed in the collection.

To Support the Saints

1Co 10:13 There hath **no temptation** taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, Who will not suffer (*Gk.1439-permit or leave alone*) you to be tempted (*Gk.3985-to test*) **above that ye are able**; but will **with the temptation**

(Gk.3986-a putting of proof [by experiment {of good}, experience {of evil}, discipline or provocation) **also make a way to escape**, that ye may be **able to bear** (Gk.5297-endure) **it**. (Two reasons for the test: discipline and endurance.)

Gal 6:2 **Bear ye one another's burdens** (Gk.922-weight, figuratively a load), and so fulfil the law of Christ. 3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. 4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For every man shall bear his own burden. 6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate (Gk.2841-to share) unto him that teacheth in all good things. 7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. 9 And let us **not be weary** (Gk.1573-to fail [in heart]) **in well** (Gk.2570-valuable or virtuous) **doing**: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10 **As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially** (Gk.3122-most [in the greatest degree] or particularly, chiefly) **unto them who are of the household** (Gk.3609-relative, adherent) **of faith** (Gk.4102-persuasion, especially reliance upon Christ for salvation).

- Sometimes there are financial needs of brethren who have fallen into debt unexpectedly, through no fault of their own.

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Use Wisdom Toward Outsiders

Pro 20:4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *therefore* shall he beg in harvest, and *have* nothing.

- We are not to take into account a person's current predicament as reason to enable them in an unfruitful lifestyle. Situations may vary so wisdom is key.

2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would (Gk.2309-choose or prefer) not work, neither should he eat.

Rom 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God. (Even to the poor whose choice is not to work.)

Mat 7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

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Requires Good Stewardship

Mat 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: **be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.**

- We are also to be **good stewards** of the **Lord's** money knowing it is to be used for the support of evangelism, benevolence and for outreach.

1Co 9:13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live *of the things* of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? 14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

Jas 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and (*Gk.2532-even*) the Father is this, To visit (*Gk.1980-relieve*) the fatherless (*Gk.3737-bereaved ["orphan"], that is, parentless, comfortless*) and widows in their affliction(*Gk.2347-pressure [literally or figuratively], anguish, burdened, trouble*), and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

1Ti 5:5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.

- To visit, in the context, then would mean to give of one's self to relieve others who are burdened or less fortunate than we are.

1Ti 5:8 But if any provide (*Gk.4306-look out for beforehand*) not for his own, and specially (*Gk.3122-in the greatest degree*) for those of his own house (*Gk.3609-relative*), he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel (*Gk.571-disbelieving, heathen*). 9 Let not a widow be taken into the number (*Gk.2639-to enroll*) under threescore (60) years old*, having been the wife of one man, 10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

- This was type of a **New Testament** social security. She had to be at least 60 years old and would have been accepted only if she was a productive worker in the kingdom.

1Ti 5:16 If any man or woman that believeth (*Gk.4103-trustworthy*) have widows, let them relieve (*Gk.1884-help*) them, and let not the church be charged (*Gk.916-weighed down*); that it (*the church*) may relieve them that are widows indeed (*Gk.3689-really, certainly, of a truth, verily*). Widows without any source of income whatsoever.

Purpose of Outreach

Mat 5:16 Let your light so **shine before men**, that they may see your good works, **and glorify your Father** which is in heaven.

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Our Reward

Mat 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: 32 And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: 33 And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger (*Gk.3581-foreign, guest*), and ye took Me in: 36 Naked (*Gk.1131-nude [absolutely or relatively, literally or figuratively]*),

Joh 21:7 ... Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was [relatively] naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited (*Gk.1980-to go see, relieve*) Me: I was in prison (*There are a lot of prison ministries that use this verse as a rallying cry for support. Not that we aren't to go into the prisons to teach a "captured audience" but in the context, I believe, Jesus is speaking of those brethren who were imprisoned unjustly for the testimony they held.*), and ye came unto Me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungred, and fed Thee? or thirsty, and gave Thee drink? 38 When saw we Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? or naked, and clothed Thee? 39 Or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and came unto Thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.** 41 Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave Me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took Me not in: naked, and ye clothed Me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited Me not. 44 Then shall they also answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto Thee? 45 Then shall He answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye **did it not** to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to Me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Jas 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Doing good includes first becoming a Christian...

Hear: Romans 10:17 ..."faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Believe: Heb 11:6 ..."for he that commeth to God must believe that He is"...

Repent: Lk 13:3 ..."except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess: Mat 10:32 "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven."

Be baptized: Acts 2:38 ..."repent and be baptized...in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins"...

Remain faithful: Rom 6:4 ..."even so we also should walk in newness of life."

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