

CBC BIBLE STUDY

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STEWARDSHIP—HANDLING YOUR FINANCES

The Bible and Giving: Christian Responsibility in Light of God’s Amazing Grace
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Luke 6:38 NLT

“Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.””

GOOD STEWARDSHIP begins with the ATTITUDE of one’s heart!!!

A. Give one’s self to God

B. Yield one’s will to His will

GIVING is our response to the amazing GRACE OF GOD!

“GIVING is a vital and essential aspect of true and genuine Christian Discipleship.”

“The MANNER in which one gives—both in ATTITUDE and AMOUNT, is but a reflection of the condition of one’s heart.”

So, HOW MUCH OUGHT ONE GIVE???—Jesus, when speaking of this issue, encouraged His disciples to do more than what was required under the Old Testament, with what was called the TITHE.

Matthew 23:23 NKJV

““Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”

NLT

““What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.”

Matthew 23:23 NLT

“It is clear that our Lord was concerned not only with WHAT we give but HOW we give.”

Issues of the heart are at the heart of giving.”

2Corinthians 8 & 9 offers an extensive section on GIVING. In those chapters, Paul provides the basic PRINCIPLES OF NEW TESTAMENT GIVING.

A. As Jesus taught, the Apostle Paul reminds us clearly in the following:

Giving as we ought is a matter not so much of obligation, but is instead one of gratitude, and of grace.

BELIEVERS are to continually answer the summons of DYING TO LIVE. The BELIEVERS desire is always to please God, not themselves.

BELIEVERS are to live under the Lordship of Christ.

BELIEVERS are to be motivated by His LOVE.

Christian living is therefore to be marked by a FORGIVING spirit AND a generous concern for those in need.

Bountiful GIVING IS A MARK OF TRUE GRACE—appreciation and thankfulness!!!

CONCLUSION: We have received His unmerited favor in salvation. Now we give sacrificially in response to “this gift too wonderful for words!”

Christian Giving is marked by GENEROSITY and may entail sacrifice! Such requires HONESTY, INTEGRITY, and CARE.

TWELVE THINGS

1. “Outward circumstances and personal difficulties should not prevent generosity in our giving.”

2Corinthians 8:1-4 NLT

“Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem.”

1. “All financial giving should be preceded first by the GIVING of oneself TO the Lord.”

2Corinthians 8:5 NLT

“They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.”

1. “Those who follow Jesus should excel in the GRACE of giving.”

1Corinthians 8:6-7 NLT

“So, we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.”

1. Generous giving is an expression of the LOVE one has for Jesus.

2Corinthians 8:8-9, 24 NLT

“I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches. You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich. So show them your love, and prove to all the churches that our boasting about you is justified.”

1. There is an intimate connection between the GRACE OF GOD and the GRACE OF GIVING. The former naturally leads to the latter.

2Corinthians 8:8-9 NLT

“I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches. You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.”

1. A willingness to be generous in giving is more important than the amount given.

2Corinthians 8:12 NLT

“Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don’t have.”

1. We should give to churches and ministries that handle God's mercy judiciously and responsibly.

2Corinthians 8:16-21 NLT

"But thank God! He has given Titus the same enthusiasm for you that I have. Titus welcomed our request that he visit you again. In fact, he himself was very eager to go and see you. We are also sending another brother with Titus. All the churches praise him as a preacher of the Good News. He was appointed by the churches to accompany us as we take the offering to Jerusalem—a service that glorifies the Lord and shows our eagerness to help. We are traveling together to guard against any criticism for the way we are handling this generous gift. We are careful to be honorable before the Lord, but we also want everyone else to see that we are honorable."

1. Generous giving out of gratitude to God will encourage others to do the same.

2Corinthians 9:1-2 NLT

"I really don't need to write to you about this ministry of giving for the believers in Jerusalem. For I know how eager you are to help, and I have been boasting to the churches in Macedonia that you in Greece were ready to send an offering a year ago. In fact, it was your enthusiasm that stirred up many of the Macedonian believers to begin giving."

1. The ATTITUDE in which we give is important to God. He loves willing and cheerful givers.

2Corinthians 9:5-7 NLT

"So I thought I should send these brothers ahead of me to make sure the gift you promised is ready. But I want it to be a willing gift, not one given grudgingly. Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in

your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

1. Generosity in giving moves God to supply more and meet your genuine needs.

2Corinthians 9:8-11 NLT

"And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever." For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God."

1. Grace Giving will result in PRAISE and THANKSGIVING to God.

2Corinthians 9:11-14 NLT

"Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you."

1. Generous Giving is the natural response to God's gracious gift of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 9:15 NLT

"Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!"

“Paul understood how important Christian STEWARDSHIP was to true and genuine Christian DISCIPLESHIP.

He knew that GIVING cannot help but reveal the spiritual life of those who call Jesus Lord.

He knew that how we give is a COMMENTARY on our love for Christ, His Church, and the Lost!!!

Verse 9:15 says the following: “thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.” So, look to the Cross—consider what God has done for you, me, us in Christ, and GIVE! When we see the Cross clearly, we will find it impossible to be anything but GENEROUS in OUR response.