

## GIVING TO THE LORD (1)

This congregation since its beginning has always been a good giving congregation. I remember a special need arose in this congregation several years ago. Some were giving to it and Don Davis was absent and unable to contribute. When he found out about it, he rebuked me and told me the next time something like that happened that I should put in \$20.00 for him and he would reimburse me. Imagine that! Some people would rebuke the preacher for having to give, but he was rebuking me because he did not have the opportunity to give! W. L. Totty regularly preached and wrote on our duty to give. I have from time to time also preached on our obligation to give as the Lord has commanded. People who have honest and good hearts will obey the Lord's command to give. I do not doubt that, even in a good congregation where there are some very generous people, there is a need for some to increase their giving. A tightwad can be a part of a generous congregation and still lose his soul because of covetousness. Therefore, I am going to write a little about giving to remind all of us of our duty.

Paul caused a riot in Ephesus when he preached against idolatrous worship which hurt the profits of the craftsmen who made their living by making silver shrines in honor of the goddess Diana. He hit them where it hurt - in the pocketbooks. The subject of giving is not very pleasant for the unconverted or the weak in faith. People who love their money more than God will not appreciate lessons on giving. However, we all need teaching on giving whether we want it or not. Some in the church do not want missionaries coming by to tell of their needs in preaching the gospel, but we need to hear of their needs anyway.

### What Should Saints Give to the Lord?

We should give ourselves to the Lord. A scribe asked Jesus what the first commandment is; and his response was: "The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31.) A good word study on the heart, soul, mind and strength would be beneficial; but to sum it up, Jesus demands our all. We sometimes sing the song, "All To Jesus I Surrender." I wonder if we really mean those words, especially when some see no need to come back on Sunday nights or Wednesday nights

The story is told that J. D. Tant was about to baptize a man, but the man remembered that he had his billfold in his pocket; so, he started to pull out his billfold. But Tant told him that's OK; I will baptize your billfold too. Some members of the church need their billfolds baptized as well.

The Macedonian churches were held out as good examples of giving churches. Paul told the Corinthian church, "Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. (II Cor. 8:1-4.) They gave beyond what was expected of them.

The key to their generosity was that they "first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God." (II Cor. 8:5.) I know that becoming a good giver is a matter of spiritual growth. Individuals need time to grow in their giving just as they need time to grow in their faith (II Cor. 8:7); however, one who has been in the church five, ten, fifteen, twenty, thirty, or forty years and still carps about having to give, or having to support a missionary or giving to this good work or that good work has not truly been converted to Christ. Brethren, we can lose our souls over being covetous, just as one can lose his soul because he has not been baptized! "Take heed and beware of covetousness," Jesus said (Luke 12:15).

We should give our time to the Lord. Paul told the Ephesian saints to redeem the time; that is, "buy up the opportunity." We need to make time for the services of the

church: Bible studies, worship periods and gospel meetings. Not only do we need to attend the services of the church, but we need to prepare for these services. If you are in a class, you need to study your lessons.

If you teach a class, how much time do you spend each week in preparation for your class? If you are a teacher here, one of the most important works you do for the cause of Christ is prepare to teach your class. Do you have students who are absent from your class? Do you take the time to check on them? I have in my files a 1953 post card that sister Kemp sent to one of her students who had missed her class. That boy grew up, left the church, but eventually was restored to the Lord before he died. She, as his Sunday school teacher, left an impression on him that remained with him all his life. Just a "that'll do" job as a teacher is not pleasing to God and hurts the cause of Christ. Being a good Bible teacher means preparing for your classes.

Giving our time means visiting the sick and shut-ins as we have opportunity and ability. In the judgment scene depicted in Matthew 25:31-46, those on the right of the Son of Man were commended for their taking the time to help others. The King said 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." (Matt. 25:40.) Whereas those on the left were condemned because they did not help even the least who was in need.

The Lord also wants our talents or abilities to be used in his work. The parable of the talents teaches this truth (Matt. 25:14-30). If a man can get up and give a presentation at work, then he can grow spiritually to the point of being able to teach a Bible class. We are not only going to be held accountable for what we have done, but we are going to be held accountable for what we are able to do, but refuse to do. We are obligated to develop our abilities and hone our skills. One who refuses to do this, is an unprofitable servant and will lose his soul. Read the parable again.

**Ben F. Vick, Jr. from *The Informer***

## ANNIVERSARY

Ed and Verna Hanson, 11-11 57<sup>th</sup> Congratulations!

## BIRTHDAY

Tom Bright, 11-05.

## ILL

**Sunday:** Lynda Cole (AM), Kathleen Camp (PM).

**Wednesday:** Lynda Cole; Monica Nemechek. Anne Adams had outpatient carpal tunnel surgery on Thursday.

Barbara James had outpatient abdominal surgery on Thursday and is recovering at home.

**Those battling cancer:** Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these, as well as: Janice Carter, Lynda Cole, Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

## HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is in Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## OUT OF TOWN

The Greer's were in Independence last Sunday PM.

## POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, November 5 following our AM worship. All are invited to come and enjoy the good food and company!

## MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, November 12 following our AM worship.

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 62; Sunday PM, 45; Wednesday PM, 48.

*"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."* **2 Corinthians 9:7**

## Those To Serve

November 5, 2006

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Cole**

### MORNING WORSHIP

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson**

**SONG LEADER..... George Thomas**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Myron Nebergall**

**PRESIDE..... Jeff Nemechek**

**ASSIST.....John James**

**ASSIST.....David Parish**

**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter**

### EVENING WORSHIP

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Charles Tullis**

**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Carter**

**LORD'S SUPPER..... Jeff Nemechek**

### WEDNESDAY 8th

**SONG LEADER..... Jeff Nemechek**

**INVITATION ..... Joel Nelson**

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM

Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM

Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM

Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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