

God Loves a Cheerful Giver

Mark N. Posey

Notice the Words of Jesus recorded in Acts 20:35; "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" This Scripture emphasizes stewardship. A steward is a manager, an overseer or a caretaker. Every Christian is a steward. A steward is never the owner; he is always the manager of what is placed into his care! What areas of stewardships do we have? We have stewardship of **time** (Ephesians 5:16), **treasures** (Matthew 6:21) and **talents** (1 Peter 4:10)! The matter of stewardship extends to all areas of life, such as: spiritual gifts, family and all earthly possessions. Notice the blessings of being a cheerful giver!

Privilege of Giving

God expects us to give as we have purposed and prospered (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Notice two examples: Philippians, "an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God." Macedonians, "that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality." God loves a **cheerful** giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Promises of Giving

God promises we will have an abundant abundance (2 Corinthians 9:6-10). Sowing (v.6): In this context it speaks of one seed producing many seeds as a way of referring to abundance. Yet, first the seed must be given away (i.e., sown)! Sufficiency (v.8): Christian giving affects all of life! God provides for all needs (Matthew 6:19-34). Seed (v.10): Giving is the natural result of salvation. A stingy Christian is a contradiction in terms!

Practice of Giving

God identifies giving to be purposeful (2 Corinthians 8:3). We give out of ability (8:3a): Giving is out of what you have, not out of what you do not have! We must give sacrificially (8:3b): Giving always pinches; it is a sacrifice! We must give willingly (8:3c): No one should give under pressure. We must give with an open heart!

In conclusion, notice three important passages (Luke 6:38; Malachi 3:16; Job 1:20-21). Job lost all of his earthly possessions, including his children. How he responded was a demonstration of his morality and integrity. "Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.'" **Job held his possessions with an open hand and clung tightly to God.** In doing so that enabled him to hold fast to his integrity and convictions. To God be the Glory!

- Gospel Gazette online -

The will and not the gift makes the giver. - Lessing

News Notes

BAPTISM: Landon Beatty. Welcome, Landon, to our church family. His address is in our Directory.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Each Thursday at 11:00 a.m.

SING: This Friday, May 22, 7:00 p.m., Bridge Street Church of Christ, New Martinsville.

OUR VBS: June 8-12, 10:00 a.m.-Noon. Classes for all ages. Adult Class Teacher: Steve Smithbauer.

BIBLE QUESTIONS: If you have Bible questions you would like Bro. Rico to study and consider for a Bible answer, please submit them to him in writing by **May 31st.**

PANTRY: Canned pears.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: At Home: Anita Hopwood, Donna Stevens, Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong. **Orchard's Rehab, East Liverpool:** Marlene Evans. **Fox, Chester:** Mary Johnson. **Serra Manor, Weirton:** Jean Haught (Skip's mother). **ELSEWHERE:** Brenda Harris (Gerald & Paula Clutter's sister), 102 Cardnal Drive, Rockwell, NC 28138 (Phone: 304-479-3950). Nancy Hadley, 2995 Clay Pond Drive, Oakland, TN 38060. Carolyn Carbone (Janet & Becky's sister), 98 Orange Blossom Dr., Ranson, WV 25438. Sue Baumgardner (the McKittrick's daughter), 245 Mark Drive, Paducah, KY 42001. Christy Claypool, 204 Rio Pinar Drive, Warner Robins, GA 31088. Jackie Brown (Rico's mother), 4227 Prince Hall Blvd., Orlando, FL 32811. Herman McHan, 29 Jenny Lane, Columbiana, OH 44408.

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m.
on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

GIVING

"What, giving again?" I asked in dismay.
"And must I keep giving and giving always?"
"Oh no," said the angel, piercing me through,
"Just give till the Father stops giving to you..."