

THE PROOF OF YOUR LOVE - GIVING

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. We Must Look To The Bible For Authority In Guiding Us To Meet Our Individual Obligation To The Lord In The Matter Of Scriptural Giving.
1. There is no such thing as an unimportant or non-essential commandment from God, yet:
 2. There are some who look upon the commandment to give as being less important than the commandment to be baptized, observe the Lord's supper, etc., or else they may regard the commandment to give as a "hard saying" from the Lord.
 - a. The apostle John affirms that the commandments of God are not grievous (i.e. "βαρὺς = heavy...burdensome...weighty...violent, cruel, unsparing." Thayer, p. 96. (1 John 5:3)
 - b. Instead of God's commandments being hard, heavy or burdensome, the opposite is true. In accepting the yoke of Christ, there is freedom and true rest. (Matt. 11:28-30)
- B. There Have Always Been Those Who Have Accused The Lord Of Being "Hard" And "Unjust" In What He Expects Of His Servants. (Matt. 25:24)
1. An examination will reveal that those who accuse the Lord of unrighteousness, are projecting their own weaknesses upon Him. (cf. Luke 19:20-24)
 2. The attitude which one assumes toward the one giving the commandment determines how he will react toward obeying the commandment.
 - a. "Some people complain because the rose has thorns, while:
 - b. Other people are thankful that thorns have roses."

- c. Thus it is all a matter of our attitude toward our situation in life or toward Him who commands us in this life.

II. AIM.

The Aim Of This Lesson Is To Help Us See That Love For God Will Express Itself In Generous Support Of His Cause.

III. OUTLINE.

A. GIVING IS TAUGHT THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE.

1. Some Bible commandments are confined to the Old Testament.
 - a. The Sabbath.
 - b. The Levitical priesthood.
 - c. Feasts of tabernacles, Passover, etc.
2. Some Bible commandments are confined to the New Testament.
 - a. Baptism.
 - b. The Lord's supper, etc.
 - c. The second coming of Christ.
3. Giving (or sacrificing) to God is a subject found throughout the Bible in every dispensation.
 - a. Notice the sacrifices of Cain and Abel who lived under the Patriarchal dispensation. (*Gen. 4:3-8*)
 - 1) The contrast of sacrifices:
 - a) Cain brought of the fruit of the ground...an offering...
 - b) Abel...brought of the *firstlings* of his flock and of the *fat* thereof...
 - 2) The Hebrew writer informs us that faith was that which moved Abel to offer a

more excellent (i.e. πλείων = "...
(1) greater in quantity:... (2) greater
in quality, superior, more excellent...,"
Thayer, pp. 515-516), sacrifice than
Cain... (Heb. 11:4)

- 3) *NOTE:* A careful consideration of these facts seems to indicate that Cain gave without carefully considering the one to whom he was giving, while Abel carefully considered the one to whom he was giving, thus was careful to give the best that he had.
- b. Notice the sacrifice of Abraham to God through Melchisedec. (*Gen. 14:17-20 cf. Heb. 7:4-6*)
 - 1) There is much which we wish God had revealed to us in His book, but which God evidently considered unimportant as it related to our salvation, thus omitted.
 - 2) In spite of the extreme selection of truth to be included in the Bible, God took the space to tell us twice that Abraham gave ten percent and prospered.
 - c. Notice the vow of Jacob. (*Gen. 28*)
 - 1) Jacob's dream. (*vs. 10-15*)
 - 2) Jacob's vow. (*vs. 20-22*)
 - 3) The result of God's blessings as a result of Jacob being faithful to his vow, just twenty-two years later. (*Gen. 32: 9-10, 14-15*)
 - d. Notice the way Israel gave to God in building the tabernacle. (*Ex. 35:4 - 36:7, note esp. vs. 35:5, 20-26, 29 and 36:5-7*)
 - e. Notice that Israel was required to give ten percent of all, besides the cost of the various offerings. (*Lev. 27:30-34*)
 - f. Notice that giving is also taught in the New Testament:
 - 1) "...so also do ye..." (*1 Cor. 16:1*)

- 2) "...he that giveth, let him do it with liberality..." (Rom. 12:8)
- 3) "Every man as he purposeth in his heart ...God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7)

B. MOTIVATING FACTORS FOR GIVING.

1. God's great love for man motivated Him to give:
 - a. John 3:16.
 - b. Rom. 5:8.
2. Paul used the example of the churches of Macedonia to *prove the love* of the Corinthian Christians. (2 Cor. 8:1-9)
 - a. Note especially *ver. 8*.
 - b. One can give without loving, but one cannot love without giving.
 - 1) Do we love Christ because of all that He has done for us?
 - a) Rom. 5:8.
 - b) 1 John 3:1, 4:19.
 - 2) One cannot be Christ-like without giving generously of himself and of that which he has.
3. We will give liberally when we really come to realize that we own nothing (1 Tim. 6:7a) and that we can take nothing with us when we die. (1 Tim. 6:7b). *One is wise to give what he cannot keep, in order to gain what he cannot lose!*
4. Obedience to the Lord's commandments motivates us to give. (John 14:15, 21)
 - a. Rom. 12:8. (R.S.V. or A.S.V.)
 - b. 1 Cor. 16:1-2.
 - c. 2 Cor. 9:6-11.

C. SOME OBJECT TO GIVING UNLESS THERE IS AN EMERGENCY.

1. What greater emergency could exist than the emergency which confronts the church today?
 - a. The attitude of immorality being accepted today by so many.
 - b. Dangers of false doctrine being taught.
 - c. The emergency of a lost world needing to hear the gospel. (*Matt. 28:18-20*)
 - d. *1 John 5:19* seems to be an apt description of our time, and the church is the only voice to cry out against the errors.
2. Not only is our emergency national, IT IS INTERNATIONAL!

IV. CONCLUSION.

When We Demonstrate Our Love For God, We Will Give:

- A. Regularly - Weekly. (*1 Cor. 16:2*)
- B. Proportionately - As We Have Prospered. (*1 Cor. 16:2*)
- C. Cheerfully. (*2 Cor. 9:7*)
- D. Purposefully. (*2 Cor. 9:7*)
- E. Generously. (*2 Cor. 9:5-11, Rom. 12:8*)