

“Let Each One of You Lay Something Aside”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

I. THE OFFERING IN SCRIPTURE

- A. In our assemblies on the first day of the week, we follow the charge given to the churches of Galatia and Corinth - 1Cor. 16:1-2
- B. It is not unusual for people to have misconceptions about this act of worship
 - 1. An intrusion on an otherwise a spiritual service
 - 2. A 'necessary evil' for the church to carry on its work
 - 3. Just something we have to do after the Lord's Supper
 - 4. Guests and visitors often wonder if they are expected to contribute
 - 5. Some have left after the communion service; they haven't finished worshiping God
- C. A weekly collection was instituted by inspired apostolic authority - 1Cor. 16:1-2
 - 1. Sacrificial giving was encouraged - 2Cor. 8:1-5, 9
 - 2. Principles were taught to determine how much one should give
 - a. As he may prosper - 1Cor. 16:2
 - b. Whatever is given with a willing mind - 2Cor. 8:12
 - c. According to what one has - 2Cor. 8:12-13
 - d. As he purposes in his heart - 2Cor. 9:7
 - e. Cheerfully, not grudgingly or of necessity - 2Cor. 9:7
 - f. Keeping in mind the principle of sowing and reaping - 2Cor. 9:6, 8
- D. Funds collected in this manner:
 - 1. Support the preaching of the gospel - 1Cor. 9:6-14; 2Cor. 11:8-9
 - 2. Help financially distressed Christians - 1Cor. 16:1, 3; 2Cor. 9:1, 12

II. WHAT DOES THE OFFERING GIVE TO CHRISTIANS?

- A. We learn the grace of giving - 2Cor. 8:1-2, 6-7, 9; 9:8-11, 14
 - 1. When done properly, giving is a manifestation God's grace in our lives toward others
- B. We learn the blessedness of giving - Psalm 41:1-3; Acts 20:35
- C. We are laying up treasure in heaven - Luke 12:32-34; 1Tim. 6:17-19
- D. We are having fellowship in the work of others - Phil. 1:3-7, 4:10-18
- E. We learn to become more liberal, scripturally - 2Cor. 9:10-11; Rom. 12:8

Conclusion:

- A. One of the more obvious lessons in Christ's teaching is that there is little happiness in owning or receiving anything material, but primarily in giving it to those in distress.
- B. A lack of generosity is a refusal to acknowledge that what we have, we received from God.
- C. One who gives with a loving and liberal heart, blesses God Who gave it to him, blesses his neighbor on behalf of God, and blesses himself with joy in this world and with great reward in eternity.