

Deut. 16:12

And that is to the shame of the church. How can the people of the community ever find out what business the church is in?

How confused the public must be on Sunday when they come to Sunday church. Now the people are to blame for this condition.

In addition to the leaders of the church. Christians who are members of the church but refuse to bring their tithes and offerings for its support.

Why talk about money for the cause of God. Because Jesus did. Of the 38 parables that Jesus spoke, 12 parables were addressed on the subject of money. He probed the consciences of people about how they got their money, how they spent their money, how they used their money, how they kept their money, and what their money did to them.

One verse of each 6 verses in Matthew, Mark and Luke's gospel deals specifically with the Christian's use of money.

Many Christians are extremely fundamental about the great doctrine of repentance, the new birth. Heaven, hell and we all should be. Jesus had more to say about money than any of these outstanding doctrines. And yet many people otherwise fundamentally pass in silence the subject of money for the cause of God.

Let me put before you some of the teachings of the Bible on the subject of giving money to the cause of God. Give some money to the cause of Christ and be they great of small, there should be made intelligently and in the right spirit from the

Introduction

The contribution of money for the cause of God is a good theme for a sermon. It is desirable that we have right ideas concerning the grace of giving. I will therefore try to give to you the teachings of the Bible on this important duty.

The church is sometimes criticized and condemned because it is constantly calling for money. The collection plate is thought of by some as an intrusion. It interferes with them.

I read an interesting story of a minister who was attending a meeting in California and he said they were listening to the work of a particular church. The man told about the number of new church buildings every year. By his denomination He told of the number of teachers and preachers they had at work. He told of the number of Bibles they distributed among the people. The number of Sunday schools operated and the other good literature distributed week by week to the youth. He told of revivals. Religion and a number converted. To the faith and the service of Jesus Christ. There was an enthusiastic listener who several times gave out a joyous shout, "glory hallelujah." At the close of the address, and appeal was made for money. To help carry on this good work. The minister said he noticed when the plate was passed that the enthusiastic friend made no response in coin. His zeal in Christian work did not take shape in the form of

contribution of money. He was evidently glad that other people gave money to the work of the Lord. But he did not seem disposed to give any of his own.

But the simple true is this. The Commission of Jesus to go and preach the gospel to every creature cannot be carried without money.

The prayer thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth means money out of our pockets. If we are not willing to give our money to this work in all good conscience, we should quit using prayer. We must either put up or shut up as some would simply say. We must pay as well as pray for the spread of the gospel. It is possible to build churches, print Bibles, support missionaries without money.

One of the common excuses today is I cannot give anything to the church. Much less, try to tithe. Because I have no money and I am in debt. Many of the average American Christians have spent not only their cash but most of them have spent their credit. And said to say, on themselves.

You let a man try to give such an excuse as home. It may be the anniversary of his marriage. He comes out that morning and he says I'm sorry sweetheart, I had no money and I just couldn't buy a present and we just couldn't do anything special today. It's not because I love you less. The day passes and he comes home to dinner wearing a new suit of clothes. His wife

would ask him where did you get that suit, where did it come from. You told me this morning you didn't have any money. And then he would go and explain and say, I had gone downtown and bought myself a suit of clothes on credit. Knowing her practical turn of mind, I dare say she would ask, why did you not try that credit on a present or on an anniversary celebration?

There are thousands of self-deceived Christians. Who face the Lord's Day on Sunday, the anniversary of his coming forth from the tomb without a present for him. And I think the Lord would ask, you've spent all your cash, you've exhausted most of your credit on yourself and selfish needs far more than the tithe would be. If you were really sincere, would you not seek first the kingdom of God?

You know the tragedy today of selling and many things that are blamed on the church because of money for God. Well, its difficult to tell what kind of business some churches are in. A church may put on a rummage sale on Monday; they're in the junk/business. They put on entertainment on Tuesday; they're in the theatre/business. They put on oyster stew for profit on Wednesday; they're in the restaurant/business. They send workers out in the neighborhood with jello on Thursday; they're in the grocery/business. And the women go around and sell aprons on Friday; they get in the dry goods/business. And on Saturday they are canvassing the community; they're in the advertising business

love by donations of money. They possessed many Christian graces. Therefore as ye are bound in every thing in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this garce also the grace of giving.

Paul wanted them to be as famous for giving as they were famous for faith, for preaching, for knowledge, zeal and love.

The best proof of our devotion to the cause of Chrst is what we do and what we give. For the existence of Christ's cause. Josh Billings was right when he said that the best way to test a man's faith was to ask him for a subscription to fix up the meeting house. Men show their appreciaion of the gospel and their faith in the way they give to propogate it.

Third, halirious givers. The Bible teaches us that those whoe give for the cause of God find that their hearts are gladdened and they are willing hearts. We are warned against giving grudgingly. We are taught that the Lord loveth a cheerful giver. And the Greek word translated "cheerful" means halirious.

There are halirious givers. There are men and women to whom it is a real luxury to give. They are never so happy as when they are giving money to some good cause. They are like springs in the mountains - always full and always giving.

However there are some givers that remind me of the old country pump we used to have. That old pump needed a vast deal

right motive. I am more concerned about the spirit in wich men give than about the amount they give. If we have the right spirit in giving and if we have the right motive, they I am sure and certain the amount will be right.

You may bring large gifts of gold to God's cause but if you do not bring them in the right spirit, God will say to you what he said to one of old. Thy money perish with thee.

God is not a pauper dependent on our gifts. For the accomplishment of his purposes. In taking our gifts God is seeking our own enrichment. He is giving us an opportunity to be laborers together with him. To give money to the cause of Christ is to enter into the partnership with God in the service of humanity. The gift enriches and enlarges the giver. God is a great giver. Therefore, this business is to become God-like.

First, note the Bible and money. The Bible teaches that we are not to give time only, and thought and energy to the cause of God. But we are to give money. There are a host of passages which give us our duty in regard to the gifts of money to support the spread of religion.

You will find chapter after chapter wholly devoted to the subject. Where we are once commanded to pray, it is said we are five times commanded to give.

The making of a contribution of some sort of amount is necessary a part of worship. The message that God sent to

Cornelius was by prayers and thy alms are come up for a memorial before God. The prayer needed the gift. The gift needed the prayer.

It will repay you to make out a list of what might be called the money chapters of the Bible. The 7th chapter of Numbers was the longest chapters in the Bible, is all about gifts and givers. It is a long list of contributions and contributors to the tabernacle fund. The names of the givers and what they gave are reported there.

Now some people have objected to having their names and amounts of contributors printed and made public. Well, the best answer to this is in the Bible itself. I wonder if it wouldn't be a wise thing for some plans for a church to annually publish a list of the contributors and the amounts contributed to the various objects in the church. A list of contributors and contributions would be a means of grace, provoking others to love and to good works. It would show men and women what others were giving. And it would make some repent of their stinginess. It would also show that while some people were giving according to their means, others have been giving according to their meanness.

In Exodus the 35th chapter, the 29th chapter of 1 Chronicle are all taken up with money. For the work and worship of God. In 2 Chronicles, chapter 29, 30, 31 give the account of a

national awakening and how the peopel brought in money for religious works. The first and scnd chapters of Haggai. In Malachi the 1st and 3rd chapters. The 8th and 9th chapters of 2 Corinthians are all money chapters. Besides these, there are scores of passages scattered throughout the Bible concerning collection of money for God's cause.

✓ Second, pray and pay. From the earliest days men and women were required to bring an offering. As they came to the Lord's house. The worship in Deut. 16:16 reads, "Thou shalt not appear before the Lord empty." Everyman shall give as he is able.

Psalms 96:8 - "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; bring an offering and come into his court." Many people in these later days neglect the bringing of an offering. They seemingly forget that it is as much their duty to give regularly as to pray and praise regularly. We need to remember that giving is worship.

The collection plate is a means of grace. Praying and paying are the right and left wings of true worship. Thy prayers and thy alms are come up for a memorial before God. The prayer sanctified the gift. The gift made the prayer effective.

The Bible teaches that our gifts of money to the cause of Christ are the best proof of sincerity of religion. To the Christians at Corinth, Paul said prove the sincerity of your

that the tithe or the tenth part of their property, their earnings belonged to God. That they had withheld and with frankness he accused them of robbery. They were using on themselves money that belonged to God. The message God sent them was (ye are cursed with a curse) for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. They had polluted the altar of God. They had brought blind sacrifices. They had brought the lame and the sick. They were bringing to God the (cheapest gifts) they could find. They studied to (see how little) they could give. And yet (retain) their standing in the church of God. And the prophets said that God said shall I accept this at your hands.

But there are people today professedly Christians who are using on themselves and for themselves money that ought to belong to God. They have (plenty of money) for what they like and they like themselves. The luxuries, the extravagancies of men and women who call themselves Christians are a denial and contradiction of the kind of life that Jesus lives.

✓ Fifth, many rich cast in much. People give to God as they increase in wealth. (Jesus) once set over against the treasury and beheld how the people cast money in. Many were rich, they cast in much. That is reported in their favor. Jesus did not overlook or minimize the large gifts that were put in by the rich men. If Jesus set over the treasury today he would see many who are rich casting in much. There are those who make

of priming and urging before you could get anything out of it.

The Bible speaks of cheerful giving. Speak unto the children of Isreal that they may bring an offering of every man and giveth it willingly with his heart. Ye shall take my offering.

Take ye an offering unto the Lord whosoever is of a willing heart let him bring it and offer it. To the Lord. "Gold and silver and brass and goat's hair." Whatever they brought from gold to goat's hair was to be brought willingly with glad, cheerful spirits. It was not the amount of the gift but the spirit of the giver. Which was emphasized.

It is not the deed we do, though the deed would be ever so fair, but the love, that the dear Lord looks for, hidden with holy care in the heart of the deed so fair.

(Mary) brought her gift to Jesus; an (alabaster box) of precious ointment. With a glad and grateful heart she brought the best she could find. Nothing was too costly. It was precious ointment. A piece of poetry goes like this:

"The love is the priceless thing,
The treasure our treasures must hold,
Or ever the Lord will take the gift,
Or tell the worth of the gold;
By the love that cannot be told."

In Exodus the 35th chapter we read that every man and woman

whose heart made them willing brought an offering. They came everyone whose spirit stirred him up and everyone whose spirit made willing and brought the Lord's offering. As you read the chapter through you find that they brought cheerfully and brought abundantly. They brought so much that word had to be send out that no more offerings were needed. They came, men, women, and as many as were willing-hearted.

David was a model giver. He contributed immense sums of money for the building of the temple. Listen to him when he called the princes and noble people together. "Moreover also because I have set my affections on the house of my God, seeing I have a treasure of mine own silver and gold over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house." Then he appealed to the people for gifts saying, "Who then offereth willingly to consecrate himself this day unto Jehovah. And the princes and the rulers, the men of wealth and standing came forward with gifts willingly. Then the people rejoiced for they offered willingly because with a perfect heart they offered willing unto Jehovah. And David the king also rejoiced with great joy."

That 29th chapter of 1 Chronicles is one of the most beautiful chapters in the Bible. The People that day experienced the truth that Jesus taught them. When he said it is more blessed to give than to receive. Man reaches his highest Christian joy when he finds a joy in giving. The investment of

money in the world of God should yield to man a real gladness. Fourth, God's claim on our wealth. We should recognize our indebtedness to God. Is another truth that's taught by the Bible. The thing we need to keep before us is the truth that when we get to the cause of God, (we are simply paying an honest debt.)

David said of thine own have we given thee. He recognized God's ownership of his wealth. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. The silver and the gold are mine, saith the Lord." If we hold any of it, we hold it in trust. We are put in trust with more or less wealth. And some day we shall give an account of our stewardship.

Now some people have a notion that because they contribute to the cause of God that it's just charity. In other words they put their contributions to God on the basis as they would to drolling out food to a tramp. They regard it as giving the government taxes for charity. Now the government does not request a certain sum. It demands and claims it as its own. Let us understand that God has claims on our wealth. As we (render to Caesar) the things that are Caesar's and let us render unto God the things that are God's.

Malachi the prophet told the people in his day they were robbing God. That was not a very pleasant sermon. He claimed

we have some from all walks of life. Telephone operators, mechanics. People who do all sorts of tasks, painters, carpenters. And yet they have a ledger and in that ledger the Lord's account is regularly set aside for the church.

Eighth, enthusiastic givers. There was a Christian businessman in Montreal who helped a church in the west. He cheerfully offered his means to help the Christian work move.

There was a deacon who made giving a fine art. He even urged his preacher often to speak upon the theme of systematic giving. His ascribed his prosperity in business to the fact that he had taken God as a partner in his business. And devoted to God a share of all the profits. He was convinced that many Christian businessmen were depriving themselves of temporal and spiritual blessings by withholding from God that which was his due.

Many Christians feel that the tenth is the lowest unit. As a man increases his income, the percentage of his contribution should increase. There are some men today who for years give the entire profit of their business to God's cause. There are those who make money in order to give money. There are men with incomes of ten thousands of dollars who would live on a meager salary and yet give thousands to religious work. In fact, D. K. Pearson was a man who gave away millions of dollars

enormous gifts. To God's work and to God's cause. The work of preaching the gospel, today lags behind for lack of money to carry it on. To translate the Bible, to print it, to circulate it. It calls for consecrated money, from consecrated men.

Never before have we needed missions at the outposts of civilization as today. Christian churches in great cities throughout the world must be pioneers in these that will lift mankind to the high levels of intellect. Material prosperity that God intended man to reach.

The question you and I must face and settle, how much owest thou? God has given you life and health; he has kept you in life and health; he has given you the ability to make wealth. Thou shalt remember the Lord thy God for he it is that giveth thee power to get wealth. He has given you all that you possess. How much owest thou? As an honest man and woman go home and find out how much you owe God. And when you have found out, pay the debt. If in past years you have not given to God, why not begin today? And now to give unto the Lord, every man shall give as he is able according to the blessing of the Lord, thy God which he has blessed thee."

Sixth, systematic giving. This is another point we need to make. That money for the cause of God must be given according to a plan. Paul said to the Christians at Corinth, "upon the

first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him.

Notice he taught in the passage "everyone" is to give something. Give it systematically on the first day of the week. That is Sunday. They are to give in proportion to their earnings or income. They are to give as God has prospered.

There should be purpose and plan in all of Christian giving. As we read elsewhere, everyman according to as he purposes in his heart, so let him give. It is recorded in the book of Ezra, that some of the chiefs of the fathers, when they came to the house of the Lord, offered freely for the house of God.

They gave after (their ability.) Unto the treasury of the work. They gave every man according not to his mood or fancy, but according to his ability. Every man gave, not according to other people's givings or other people's ability but every man according to his ability.

The teaching of the Bible emphasizes every man shall give as he is able. Let every one of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him. The disciples. Every man. Was to send relief to the brethren in Judea.

Money for God's cause then must come from everyone. They are to give regularly. They are to give a certain portion of their earnings or income. And to give as God has prospered.

Seventh, a model giver. If we follow this divine and reasonable principle some will bring gold to God's house every Sunday. And some will bring silver. Some will bring dollars and some will bring dimes. All will bring something.

A man who was converted and joined church said he used to put in a 20 dollar gold piece every Sunday. If he happened to be away some Sunday he put in two 20's. Jesus sat over against the treasury and he saw the rich man cast in much. And that was a beautiful spirit. He was converted. And he knew that God needed the money.

Cecil Rhodes used to say that there was no use in having big ideas unless you had big money to back them up and to carry them out.

He was right. There are too many people praying cream and giving skim milk. You can never carry out golden plans. With people who are unwilling. To be model givers. There are men and women who ought to be giving to God's cause. Hundreds of dollars every year, year by year, and some of them give practically nothing.

Jacob started out in life and made a vow to give a tenth to God of all that he made. Abraham gave tithes and offerings. The Jew was annually to give a tenth of his produce or income for the maintenance of worship. Now I know people today who give a tenth of their earnings and income. To the church. In fact

watereth shall be watered himself.

Jesus said give and it shall be given unto you. Good measure, pressed down and shaken together and running over shall men give into your bosom.

Bunayn says there was a man. They called him mad. The more he gave, the more he had.

The disciples had little to give to feed the multitudes. But they gave the last they had - fish and the last loaf and when the service was over they found that their baskets were full and they had some left over.

The widow gave her last cake to the prophet in his need. God rewarded her a hundred fold. Thought all the years of the famine, she had plenty for herself and her children.

A bit of poetry:

"Is thy cruse of comfort failing,

Rise and share it with another,

And through all the years of famine,

It shall serve thee and thy brother.

Love divine will fill thy storehouse,

Or thy handful still renew,

Scanty fare for one will often,

Make a royal feast for two.

For the heart grows rich in giving,

And its wealth is living grain.

but he lived plainly and simply. All his days that he might invest more into Christian work. He never spoke of gifts. He spoke of his investments. He spoke is any man can show me a better way to invest money than I have found, I would be glad if he would come and tell me. He has invested his entire wealth into God's cause.

Ninth, money is divine or demon possessed. Money stands for what we can turn it into. You can turn it into beautiful dresses; you can turn it into dinners; you can turn it into luxuries; you can feed your pride; you can pamper your body. But by the gift to the cause of Christ, you can turn it into redeemed souls. That will be a joy to you throughout all eternity. By investing in God's enterprises here on this earth, you lay up treasures in heaven. Your money can be used for the devil or for divine purposes according to your own choice. An investment in God's work will make you a partner with God and you will share in his glory to the eternal kingdom to come.

There are great joys of being affiliated with Christ and his purposes.

A young businessman who was a manufacturer gave ten thousand dollars a year to help build new mission churches. To support the preaching of the gospel at home and in foreign lands He said I cannot preach myself but it is a real joy that I can

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A young businessman who was manufacturer gave ten thousand dollars a year to help build new mission churches. To support the preaching of the gospel at home and in foreign lands He said I cannot preach myself but it is a real joy that I can support someone who can preach. He is taking a personal interest

in God's cause.

Now the Bible teaches that everybody should give something to the cause of God. No one is exempt. No Christian would want to be exempt. The Bible teaches that everybody should give something to the cause of God. Let him that is thought in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. The support of the Christian teacher, the preacher, is to come from those who are taught the word by Him. And no one is exempt. Thou shall not appear before the Lord empty. Every church member, young and old, rich and poor, should be a contributor to the work of the church. Let everyone of you is a scriptural command. Every man shall give as he is able.

Tenth, no gift too small. Yes, the government taxes a little garden as well as the big ranch. The government taxes the mansion as well as the cottage. So in the work of God everyone is to give something. The duty of giving, the privilege of giving, the joy of giving is not confined to just a few and the wealthy. When the tabernacle was built we read that some brought gold, silver, some brought brass, others brought goat's hair. (Everybody brought something.) The small gift from the poor was necessary to the work. It was just as acceptable as the large gift. The goat's hair was needed as well as the gold was needed.

The widow who brought two mites which make a fathering.

She might have said my gift is so small that it is worthless. It is so small that it will not be missed. If it is not given. And it will not be noticed if it is given. Jesus teaches by that incident. That no gift is too small. And no person is exempt from giving. The church was the better for having that widow's mite. The widow was better for having given it.

The Bible (plan and principle) is for every family and every member of the family to give something. Thou shall not appear before the Lord empty.

Eleventh, gifts enrich the giver. The Bible teaches that money cheerfully given for the cause of God enriches the giver.

I think we could say in two directions. First, temporal and second, spiritual.

First, let us note the temporal aspect of it. It is just like mercy. Blessed is he that gives. The richest gifts of heaven come to those who do most and give most to the cause of God. There are temporal financial benefits that are promised to those who give. Honor the Lord with thy substance "with thy substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase" so shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses burst out with new wine.

"There is that scattereth yet increaseth. And there is that which withholdeth more that is meet and it tendeth to poverty." The liberal soul shall be made fat and he that

Seeds which mildew in the garner,

Scattered fill with gold the plain.

Is thy burden hard and heavy,

Do thy steps drag wearily,

Help ~~thee~~ to bear thy brother's burden,

God will bear both it and thee.

Art thou stricken in life's battle,

Many wounded round thee roam,

Lavish on their wounds thy balsams,

And thy balm shall heal thine own.

Secondly, this note. The rich spiritual blessings are

promised. The cheerful giver to the cause of God there is no
verse in the Bible that is packed fuller than the 8th verse
of the 9th chapter of second Corinthians. It is God's promise
to the giver. Listen to it. "God is able to make all grace
abound toward you that ye always have all sufficiency in all
things may abound in every good work."

There is absolutely (no limit to what God will do) in and
for those who without reserve give themselves and all they have
to his service. "He that soweth bountifully shall reap also
bountifully." If you want wholesale profits, you must make
wholesale investments. The investment of money in God's plan
for the elevation of humanity is the surest and most profitable

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investment that the Christian can make in this world. If you will bring dividends here and dividends hereafter, "as it is written, he hath disbursed abroad, he hath given to the poor, his righteousness remaineth forever."

We can all do more than we have done. And not be a wit the worse. It was never loving that emptied that heart nor giving that emptied the purse. In the presence of world need, in the presence of open doors, in the presence of the fact that Christ lived a life of poverty, not having where to lay his head, having to placed in a borrowed tomb, how dare we call ourselves his followers. And go and heap up riches while the cause of Christ drags for lack of money to carry it on.

Jesus did not encourage his disciples to seek distinction through wealth but he did encourage them to give freely and lay up treasure in heaven.

Let us remember his words and follow his example. Life will soon be over. These pockets of ours will be pockets like shrouds as we pass away. All that we can hold in our dead cold hands is that we have given away. You have given liberally that we have made ourselves poor for the kingdom of heaven's sake. Let us be thankful for the privilege. For brethren, ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and though he was rich yet for our sakes he became poor that ye through his poverty might be made rich. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Sell that

ye have and give all."

just a word - 1st we need lives for the Cause of God -

Have you given your life to his cause?

Are you a Christian?

Why not give all your life to the cause of God?