

Refocus

Giving

Sunday, January 19, 2014

Psalm 24:1; Proverbs 3:9

I. Introduction

“For each of us there must be not only the conversion of the heart and mind but also the conversion of the purse.” Martin Luther

II. Why Give?

1) ***We give because of our love for God!***

Giving financially is worship to God. Giving exposes our love for God. We give because we understand what God has done for us and we understand that it is all his anyway.

Jesus says, *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

“I have received full payment and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.” Philippians 4:18

Giving is much more than a duty or an obligation; it is an act of worshipping the Lord.

2) ***We give because we are stewards of God’s money***

“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.” 1 Corinthians 10:26; Psalm 24:1

That means we are managers or stewards of the things that God has given us! Joseph was a steward when Potiphar placed him over his household. The same for us, we don’t own anything! It all belongs to God.

Stewardship is not just a responsibility but also an opportunity. We have the opportunity to convert earthly goods into heavenly currency.

3) ***We give because we are motivated by Christ’s example!***

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.” 2 Cor.

Jesus Christ is our model example when it comes to giving! He through the cross became poor so that we might become rich in Him. Jesus took on humanity so that he could destroy sin and the devil and deliver his people!

4) We give because it reflects spiritual trustworthiness!

Luke 16:11 – “If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?”

The use of money and how we give is one of the best ways of evaluating your relationship with Christ and our spiritual trustworthiness.

“If you are truly submitted to the Lordship of Christ, if you are willing to obey Him completely in every area of your life, your giving will reveal it.” D. Whitney

5) We give because we have an eternal perspective!

Matthew 6:19-21

“Money can’t make anyone rich in the things that count for eternity. Nothing of God’s is obtainable by money.” John Wimber

We forfeit eternal blessings when we do not give!

“This life is the preface – not the book, the preliminaries – not the main event, the tune-up – not the concert. It is the testing period that will determine much of the composition of that eternal life for which we were born again...Eternity will hold for us what this life has invested in it.” R. Alcorn

6) We give because it brings freedom, joy and faithfulness in our lives!

2 Corinthians 9:7b – “God loves a cheerful giver.”

“There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving, and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, ‘I have to’; duty giving says, ‘I ought to,’; and thanksgiving says, ‘I want to.’ R. Steer

When we give we are putting to death materialism, greed, and other sins and that will result in freedom, joy and faithfulness.

7) We give to further the Kingdom of God

1 Corinthians 16:2; Acts 4:34,35

“Money is to be captured, subdued, and used to advance the kingdom of God. What a tragedy if we only use it in the ordinary ways.” R. Foster

“Giving should start with your local Bible-believing, Christ-centered church, the spiritual community where you’re fed and to which you’re accountable...Even gifts that were sent to other places were given through the local church. Whereas the OT temple was a storehouse, the NT Church was a clearinghouse, a conduit of gifts to help the needy and reach the lost.” R. Alcorn

III. Conclusion