

Better Way Apostolic Church- Bible Class

Subject: To whom should we give? Galatians 6:6

In His Word, God tells us to whom we should give:

1 We should give to our local church.



Most of our gifts normally should go to our local church provided that church is one where the Bible is faithfully taught and Christ is exalted. God has ordained that His church and His ministers be supported by the gifts of His people. The Bible says,

"In the same way the Lord commanded those who proclaim the gospel to receive their living by the gospel."

1 Corinthians 9:14 (NET Bible)

2 We should give to those who have helped us spiritually.

We are instructed in God's Word to share our money with those who have taught us the Word of God and helped us spiritually. The Bible says,

"Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches." Galatians 6:6 (NKJ)



3

We should give to those in need.

We are to give to those in need—especially needy Christians. This is one way by which we can show that we have the love of God in our heart. The Bible says,

"Whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God dwell in him?"

1 John 3:17 (NKJ)

As a general rule, our giving to the needy should be done through the local church. All our giving should be done simply and without drawing any attention to ourselves. The Bible says,

"He who gives, let him do it with simplicity." Romans 12:8

4 We should give to those who are taking the gospel to the lost.

Every Christian has a responsibility to get the gospel to the lost. God's command to us is, *"Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."* (Mark 16:15) If we cannot go ourselves, we should count it a privilege to help support missionaries who are taking the gospel to those who have never heard of Christ.

Giving is Sowing



Giving is not throwing money away; it is sowing. When we sow seed, we are not throwing it away; we are planting it so that we may reap a harvest later. The size of our harvest will depend on how much we planted. This is true of our giving also. Writing to the church at Corinth concerning giving, Paul said,

"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." 2 Corinthians 9:6

God wants to provide money for the support of His churches and money to send His servants to the unreached people of the world. How does He do this? He gives money to us that we may give to His work. He wants us to be able to give generously. The Bible says,

"And God is able to make all grace overflow to you so that because you have enough of everything in every way at all times, you will overflow in every good work."
2 Corinthians 9:8 (NET Bible)

The Lord Jesus Himself is our great example in the matter of giving. The Bible says,

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."
2 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJ)

Making Eternal Friendships

Jesus often taught His disciples by means of **parables**. A parable is a short story that brings out one or more spiritual truths.

In Luke 16, the Lord Jesus told of a certain rich man who had a steward who managed his property for him. When the rich man received word that his steward was wasting his goods, he called his steward before him to give an account of his stewardship.

When the steward realized that he would soon be out of a job, he said to himself, *"What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. I*

have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they (the friends I am going to make) may receive me into their houses."



This steward devised a plan to provide for his future. He decided to call his master's debtors to him and make generous settlements with them. In that way they would become indebted to him and become his "friends." Then, when he was out of a job, these "friends" would receive him into their houses and provide him with room and board.

The steward quickly began to carry out his plan. The Bible says,

"So he called every one of his master's debtors to him, and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'"

The steward did likewise with all who owed his master. What was he doing? He was providing for his future. He was making "friends" for the future time when he would be out of his job. The master of the steward commended his steward for his shrewdness even though it meant some loss of revenue to him. He recognized that the steward needed to provide some security for his future.

From this parable, the Lord would have us learn three very important principles:



1 Life is a stewardship, not an ownership.

All that we have belongs to God. We do not own anything. We are simply God's stewards, managing what He has entrusted to us.



2 One day we must give an account of our stewardship.

God has given us life, health, talents, abilities, money, and other things. One day we must give an account to Him of what we have done with that which He has entrusted to us. To hear Him say, *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant,"* will be worth more than anything this world has to offer.



3 The wisest and best use of money is using it to win others to Christ.



Jesus summed up the heart of the story with this statement,

"And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by [means of] unrighteous mammon [money], that when you fail [die], they [the friends you have made] may receive you into everlasting habitations." Luke 16:9 (NKJ)

What the Lord is saying here is that we are to use our money to make eternal friendships so that these friends we helped win to Christ may be there to welcome us when we enter Heaven.

The story is told of an old gentleman in England who was approaching his eightieth birthday. Not knowing what to give him, his children and relatives decided to pool their gifts and give him the money to buy whatever he wanted.

The relatives collected a sum of money equal to about \$2,400. When he was told of this, the old gentleman asked, *"Do you mean that you have collected this sum of money and I can do what I want to with it?"*

When they assured him that this was correct, he said, *"I want this money to pay for printing the Bible in a new language for a tribe of people who have never had God's Word in their own language."*



The relatives checked with the British and Foreign Bible Society. An official there said, *"This is amazing! Some missionaries in Africa have been working for years translating the Bible into a new language. We have just received the manuscript."*

When asked how much it would cost to have the Bibles printed in this new language, the official said, *"About three thousand dollars."* Quickly the relatives passed the hat around again and collected the additional money that was needed.

In time, the Bibles were printed and on their way to this tribe in Africa who had never had the Word of God in their language before. Many came to know Christ as Savior through reading God's precious Word.*

In our imagination, let us picture this old gentleman as he entered Heaven some years later. Already, many from that tribe in Africa had died and gone to Heaven. As he enters a group of people greet him and throw their arms around him. They say to him, *"You are our friend. We have been waiting for you."*

The old gentleman looks at them in surprise and says, *"But I don't know you. Who are you?"*

"You may not know us," they say, "but we know you. You are the one who gave the money that made it possible for us to have God's Word in our own language. If it had not been for you, we would not be here in this beautiful place. You are our friend forever!"



A day is coming when our money will be useless and meaningless. A day is coming when our stewardship will be over. In the little time we have left we should use our money to win others to Christ and thus make eternal friendships. This is the wisest and best use of money.

Each of us should ask ourselves these questions: Am I a good steward of all that God has entrusted to me? Am I using my money to make eternal friends? Will there be anyone to greet me in Heaven and say to me, *"If it had not been for you, I would not be in this beautiful place. You are my friend forever."*?

TITHES

Paid by Abraham to Melchizedek:

Genesis 14:20 & Hebrews 7:2-6

Jacob vows a tenth of all his property to God:

Genesis 28:22

Mosaic laws instituting:

Lev. 27:30-33, Numbers 18:21-24, Deut. 12:6-7, Deut. 12:17-19, Deut. 14: 22-29, Deut. 26: 12-15

Customs relating to

Nehemiah 10:37-38, Amos 4:4, and Hebrews 7:5-9

A tithe of tithes for the priests

Numbers 18:26, Nehemiah 10:38

Stored in the temple

Nehemiah 10:38-39, 12:44, 13:5, 13:12, 2 Chronicles 31:11-12, Malachi 3:10

Payment of, resumed in Hezekiah's reign

2 Chronicles 31:5-10

Under Nehemiah

Nehemiah 13:12

Withheld

Nehemiah 13:10, and Malachi 3:8

Customary in later times

Matthew 23:23, Luke 11:42, and Luke 18:12

Observed by idolaters

Amos 4:4-5