

WHEN IT COMES TO GIVING THROUGH THE CHURCH: HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

If we are concerned about being good stewards of our finances before God, we need to distinguish between three key terms in the Bible that describe what is an appropriate measure of our giving. Those three key terms are:

- \$ Tithes
- \$ Offerings
- \$ Sacrifice

Most of us tend to treat the first two as synonyms, while we avoid the third altogether. Yet, in the Scripture, these three terms delineate God's expectations of God's people. In what follows, let's explore these three separate, yet interdependent terms.

TITHES— In the covenant God made with the people of Israel, God established the tithe as the first, and foundational act of giving. The Israelites were instructed to bring an offering of 10% of the work of their hands to the Tabernacle/Temple as a way of honoring God. Thus, one of the earliest worship practices in Israel was to bring a tenth of all of one's produce, flock, cattle, etc. to God. God took this covenant stipulation so seriously, that it became a factor in God's judging the sins of the nation: "Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, 'How are we robbing you?' In your tithes and offerings! . . . Bring the full tithe into the storehouse . . ." [Malachi 3:8, 10].

Thus, the foundational level of giving in Scripture is the tithe, or 10% of all we earn. In actual practice, tithing means that we give 10% of our all-inclusive, pre-tax income as our basic giving level to God.

OFFERINGS— When we read carefully God's expectations for people's giving, we learn that, on top of the tithe, God expected that people would give offerings on a variety of occasions. Throughout the Scripture, one thing is clear: tithes and offerings are not the same thing. The tithe is the foundation of our giving, and offerings build on the tithe.

And here is where we often get things backward. Many of us reason that, since we cannot afford to tithe, we will give whatever offering we can afford.

But from the biblical perspective, offerings are extra gifts that come in response to a variety of situations. Sometimes we give an offering out of a thankful heart for God's love and blessing to us or our families; sometimes we give an offering because there is a need in the church family or because the church is trying to respond to need in the world; or sometimes, we give an extra gift as an expression of our sorrow for our sin, or as an expression of our renewed commitment to God's work in the world..

When the Apostle Paul speaks of God loving a cheerful giver, he is not addressing (primarily

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The Carillon

Week of July 9, 2023



Jim's Jottings

SOME REFLECTIONS ON PRAYER

This past week, our study of Being A Disciple Community focused on prayer and praying in community. Both in reflecting on the material Keith presents in this section, as well as in facilitating our reflection on the material on Wednesday evening, I was struck by a detail I have overlooked that offers a new dimension to the story.

Keith uses the story of Jesus being welcomed into the home of Martha and Mary to speak to us of prayer as both delight in the presence of Jesus, and the importance of listening to what Jesus has to say to us. Most of us are familiar with the story. As Martha is busy getting dinner ready, Mary is sitting at Jesus' feet. Frustrated, Martha complains to Jesus and demands that he instruct Mary to help her. Jesus tells Martha that she is distracted by many things, and that Mary has chosen the better path.

As we reflected on this passage, I was struck by a detail I have often overlooked. Luke tells us that, "Martha welcomed [Jesus] into her home." It was Martha, not Mary, who extended the invitation and opened her home to Jesus and the disciples. It was Martha who initiated this act of friendship, who wanted to share her home, her food, her life with Jesus. And yet, as soon as Jesus is in the house, her attention turns from Jesus to the work of meal preparation. Soon she is lost in the details and obsessed with the work, so much so that she loses sight of the one whom she had invited to share fellowship with her.

I could not help but think of all the times I have expressed to God my desire for a deeper relationship, only to find myself getting up from that time of prayer, worship, and commitment and immersing myself in activities that would *prove* my devotion, that would demonstrate the seriousness of my intent—only to lose Jesus in the process; only to lose the depth of relationship that I so longed for in the first place.

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CHURCH STAFF

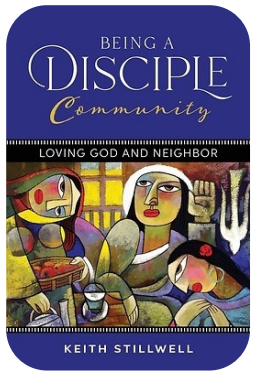
Dr. Jim Holladay
Senior Pastor

Rev. Derek Harris
Associate Pastor:
Music

Dr. Laurice Rogers
Associate Pastor:
Community Care

Jiyoung Kim
Administrative
Secretary

Chris E. Palmer
Plant Manager



KEITH STILLWELL



July 9

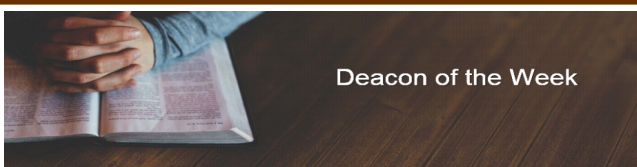
Camera– Lindsey Harris

Sound– Tim Vanderhoof

July 16

Camera– Errol Morgan

Sound– Ray Powell



Deacon of the Week

Dora Vanderhoof

241-9517 (h) 693-2286 (c)



SUNDAY

10:45 a.m.

Morning Worship on Facebook®

YouTube®,

& lyndonbaptist.org

WEDNESDAY

6:30 p.m.

Midweek Service on Facebook® & YouTube®

SCRIPTURE READERS



July 9

Dora Vanderhoof

July 16

Ann Sturdevant

July 23

Sandy Hoover

July 30

Addie Brownell



Monday, July 10

9:00 a.m. - Mary Adkins Quilters

Tuesday, July 11

9:30 a.m.— Al Anon Group

1:30 p.m.— All Anon Group

1:30 p.m. - Disciple Study - Facebook Live

Wednesday, July 12

4:00 p.m. - Administrative Team

5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper

6:00 p.m. -Disciple Study - In person/Zoom

Monday, July 17

9:00 a.m. - Mary Adkins Quilters

Tuesday, July 18

9:30 a.m.— Al Anon Group

1:30 p.m.— All Anon Group

1:30 p.m. - Disciple Study - Facebook Live

Wednesday, July 19

4:00 p.m.— Administrative Team

5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Study - In person/Zoom

Monday, July 24

9:00 a.m. - Mary Adkins Quilters

Tuesday, July 25

9:30 a.m. - Al Anon Group

1:30 p.m. - Al Anon Group

1:30 p.m. - Disciple Study - Facebook Live

Wednesday, July 26

5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Study - In person/Zoom

Monday, July 31

9:00 a.m. - Mary Adkins Quilters

WHEN IT COME TO GIVING continued from page 6

life in the first church, we encounter a radical, challenging picture of the way they stewarded their financial resources. Luke records, “All who believed . . . had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.” (Acts 2:44)

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called on us to give as an act of our absolute devotion to God and God’s kingdom work in this world. We are called to share what we have believing Jesus’ word, “Seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 5:33)

In the Sermon on the Mount (and other places) Jesus links the way we think about and handle money as an indicator of the true object of our worship and trust. He reminds us that we “cannot serve two masters; for a servant will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

It is hard for us to think about money as an idol that we worship and serve. But think for just a moment: why is it so hard for us to give generously, much less sacrificially?

Perhaps it is because we connect money with security. We trust that the accumulation of money will protect us against hard times, or coming adversity. We are reluctant to let go of any more than token amounts of our money, because we fear the future, or we love our security, or a thousand other reasons.

Jesus calls us to a new way of life; a way of radical trust in God. Then and only then can we truly put our money in service to God.



“

May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right.

PETER MARSHALL

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WHEN IT COME TO GIVING continued from back page

at least] the ongoing giving asked of every church member. He writes those words in the context of an offering he is collecting for the church in Jerusalem; an offering that will affirm the solidarity of the Gentile Christians with their Jewish siblings facing hard times in Jerusalem.

Unlike the tithe, which seems to be a basic requirement of the Covenant, offerings are those opportunities we have demonstrate our love for God and our desire to participate in God’s work that go above and beyond what God foundationally asks of us.

Though tithes and offerings are different, they are interrelated. More often than not, in the Bible, tithes and offerings are mentioned together. It is almost as if the expectation of the people of God is that we will go beyond the bare minimum (10%) and joyfully participate in the love of God for us and for others.

SACRIFICE— At one point in time it became common for people to argue that the Old Testament teachings about tithing do not apply to Christians. After all, they argued, we are no longer under the law, but under grace. They further argued that since the New Testament does not mention tithing anywhere, it is not a standard or requirement to which we can hold each other. Thus, the ‘free-will offering’ became the standard in many church circles; that is, “exercising my freedom in Christ, I can determine for myself what is an appropriate level of giving as an act of worship and support of the ministry of Christ’s church.” Some would

even quote Paul’s words [albeit out of context] in 1 Corinthians 16— “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, . . .” (KJV) However, if your read on, Paul is not talking about the offering taken up as a weekly act of worship, but as a way of saving money for the offering he is taking up for the church in Jerusalem.

Yes, it is true that the New Testament does not explicitly teach tithing. However, we should not see that reality as an excuse for being less than generous in our ongoing giving to the work of the church and God’s mission.

any other aspect of our lives for that matter) is **sacrifice**. And that may be a more exacting standard than tithing ever will be.

If the principle of sacrifice means anything, it is not asking how little can we give? Or how much is enough? Or even, what can I afford?

In both Mark and Luke we find the story we commonly refer to as the *Widow’s Mite*. Jesus commends a widow who places a single copper coin in the place where tithes and offerings were given as one who gave more than everyone else combined, because “. . . she, out of her poverty, has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

When we turn to the earliest record we have of

GIVING
as an act of worship
BEFORE GOD
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

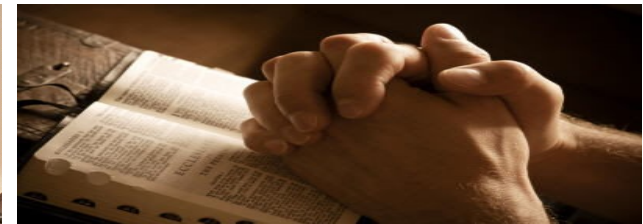
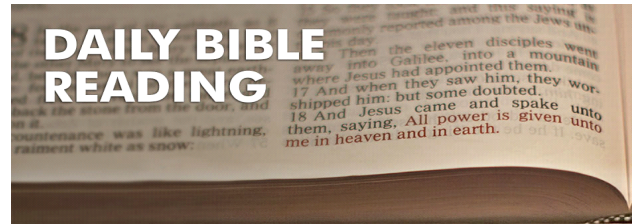
While the New Testament may not explicitly teach tithing, the basic, foundational teaching of the New Testament when it comes to money (or

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PRAYER GUIDE

July 9, 2023

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday – Psalm 131; Jeremiah 27:1 – 11, 16 – 22; Romans 1:18 – 25

Tuesday – Psalm 131; Jeremiah 28:10 – 17; Romans 3:1 – 8

Wednesday – Psalm 131; Jeremiah 13: 1 – 11; John 13:1 – 17

Thursday – Psalm 65; Isaiah 48: 1 – 5; Romans 2:12 – 16

Friday – Psalm 65; Isaiah 48:6 – 11; Romans 15:14 – 21

Saturday – Psalm 65; Isaiah 52:1 – 6; John 12:44 – 50

Sunday – Psalm 65; Isaiah 55:10 – 13; Romans 7:15 – 25a; Matthew 13:1 – 9, 18 – 23

PRAYER FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD

Praise God for summer volunteers. Pray for their travel home and that they will finish well.

Pray that believers in the house church networks will develop a hunger for the gospel.

Pray for believers as they face opposition.

Pray for the Water Filter distribution teams as they provide clean water for families.

PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Fannie Agee

2003 Red Leaf Drive, 40242

Myshael Brownell

4228 Bayberry Drive, 40216

Marvin Conn

1713 Millgate Road, 40223

Helen Contis

512 Cricket Court, Orange Park FL 32073

Dickie Cox

Forest Springs Care Center, Room 401
4120 Wooded Acre Lane, 40245

Ken Dorton

136 Dorton Circle, Castlewood, VA 24224

Donna Douglas

4003 Pacelli Place, 40245

Virginia Ford

Glen Ridge Health Campus, Room 513
6415 Calm River Way, 40299

Sandy Hoover

1031 Willow Springs Drive, 40242

Pam Wright

3907 Yardley Court, 40299

Liz Hornback

8484 Grand Trevi Drive, 40228

Gail Leyman

Gloria Landgrave

3112 Graystone Manor Parkway, 40241

Gene Morris

3000 Curran Road, 40205

Doris Omerod

1706 Roosevelt Avenue, 40242

Noemi Parroco

Vitality, Room 112
4501 Springdale Road, 40241

Libby Reynolds

9808 Neuquay Circle, 40241

Maria Sturdevant

7623 Celebration Way, Crestwood, KY 40014

Barbara Whitley

11710 Robin Lynn Lane, 40243

Prayer for Family and Friends

Evelyn Adiputra

Friend of Ruth Holladay

Rylan Applegate

Grandson of Steve and Ann
Sturdevant

Liz Aulino

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Kyp Bellinger

Family of Jim and Ruth
Holladay

John Biesel

Father of Lindsay Harris

Nellie Bolin

Friend of Jack and Laurice
Rogers

David Brinkley

Nephew of Jane Hasty

Paul Christiansen

Family of Madge Garwood and
Merri McDonald

Billy Compton

Son in Law of Dickie Cox

Alex Delano

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Kiersten Farris

Family of Jack and Laurice
Rogers

Erin Ford

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Randall Ford

Family of Marty Hamilton

Ronald Furguson

Father of Addie Brownell

Lisa Gilmore

Friend of Derek Harris

Nelson Gruppe

Cousin of Diana Flemister

Jim Harmon

Friend of Marty Hamilton

Ray Hicks

Son of Gary and Victoria Hicks

Dr. Milton Horne

Brother of Raeburn Horne

Emily Janowik and Family

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Deb Jennings and Jordan Hahn

Family of Sandy Hahn

Sara Beth Lowe

Friend of Derek and Lindsey
Harris

Eliza Moffett

Family of Madge Garwood and
Merri Mc Donald

Forrest Morehead

Brother-in-Law of Sharon Wood

Donna Prim

Friend of Gary and Victoria
Hicks

Sean Ruwe

Son of Vera Ruwe

Gladys Smith

Family of Addie Brownell

Mark and Amy Snyder

Family of Sandy Hoover

Sean Stearman

Grandson of Jan Raper

Jessica Weisenfels

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Maggie Westwood

Friend of Lindsey Harris

Joseph Williams

Family of Tim and Dora
Vanderhoof