

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. In what ways can we give to God?
2. How can we rob God?
3. What does tithing mean?
4. Why is it that those who “have” are also those who “give”?
5. With what attitude are we to give?
6. Is it easier to give when we fully understand that everything we have is really God’s?

SUMMARY:

Giving can be a real test in the life of a Christian. The Spirit can move one to a willingness to share, but the flesh with its desire to accumulate earthly goods is often an obstacle that prevents sharing according to the will of God. God’s Word promises rich blessing both physical and spiritual and both in this world and the world to come to those who give liberally. Liberally, by Christ’s definition was not necessarily judged by the amount of the gift, but rather by the sacrifice and motive with which it was given. Remember, He said the widow that gave the last mite had given more than all others. Giving is a challenge to all Christians to practice love, faith and obedience. It is an opportunity to shine brightly for Jesus’ sake in a sin-darkened world.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #13

September 23, 2007

Third Quarter

GIVING TO GOD

LESSON TEXT: *Malachi 3:7-12; 2 Corinthians 9:5-15*

LESSON SETTING: God, by Malachi complains of Israel’s evil ways. Paul encourages Corinthians to share.

TIME: The prophet Malachi lived approximately 397 BC. The New Testament was written in the first century.

I. THE PATTERN FOR GIVING. Malachi 3:7-12

- A. Encouraged. Proverbs 25:21; Matthew 5:42; Luke 3:11
- B. Withholding Cursed. Proverbs 21:13; 28:27; Malachi 3:9

II. THE PRINCIPLES OF GIVING. 2 Corinthians 9:5-7

- A. Give Spontaneously. 2 Corinthians 8:12
- B. Give in Secret. Matthew 6:1-4
- C. Give Cheerfully. (vs. 7) Exodus 35:22
- D. Give Liberally. (vs. 6) Matthew 10:8
- E. Give Consistently. 1 Corinthians 16:2

III. THE PRIVILEGES OF GIVING. 2 Corinthians 9:8-15

- A. Giver Blessed by God. Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38:12:31
- B. Recipient Praises God. (vs. 11-12)

GOLDEN TEXT: *HE WHICH SOWETH SPARINGLY SHALL REAP ALSO SPARINGLY: AND HE WHICH SOWETH BOUNTIFULLY SHALL REAP ALSO BOUNTIFULLY.*
2 Corinthians 9:6

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 15:1-7

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: John 1:40-51; Acts 1:1-9

QUARTERLY THEME: The Bible and The Christian Life

TOPIC: WITNESSING FOR CHRIST

INTRODUCTION:

Witnessing for Christ includes much more than just telling others of salvation. It includes our daily living, which should be ever victorious, showing the world what a Christian life is like. It should be lived so gloriously, victorious and joyful that others desire to have the same kind of life. The fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance must always be so apparent that the world can see the Spirit living within us, as we sing:

“Have Thine own way Lord!
Have Thine own way,
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit
Till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!”

If others can see us thus, they will listen more readily to our testimony. We witness to them our own experiences, telling of what Christ has done for us and likewise can do for them.

CENTRAL TRUTH: True love for God and men will prompt us to share the blessings of salvation with others.

GOLDEN TEXT: *YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A CITY THAT IS SET ON AN HILL CANNOT BE HID.* Matthew 5:14

Jesus was preparing His disciples for a life of witnessing for His kingdom. As yet, they themselves did not understand what Jesus' mission upon the earth was to accomplish. But after His death and resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit, the light of Jesus enkindled them and they truly could “not be hid”. When persecution scattered them, the Word was proclaimed more and more, farther and farther. The Spirit sent Peter to Cornelius, Paul to the Gentiles, Philip to the desert, all that the Gospel of salvation might be taught in every nation.

This is still a continuing mission today when the goal is much nearer at hand. Christians should be glad to witness in word, in deed, with time and possessions, which are all gifts of God, as is life and the hope of salvation itself. Jesus expects the living water He gives us to become a well of everlasting life. (John 4:14)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF September 24 - 30

- M. The Sower's Reward. Psalm 126:1-6
- T. *Witnessing for Christ. Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 15:1-7
- W. The Great Commission. Matthew 28:16-20
- T. Sharing the Good News. Acts 8:1-8
- F. The Purpose of Preaching. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- S. Paul's Example. 1 Corinthians 2:1-10
- S. The Soulwinner's Attitude. 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12