

Our Prayer List

- ◆ James Ray Adams
- ◆ Sarah Adams
- ◆ Dawn Copes
- ◆ Bill Cyrus
- ◆ Dottie Daniels
- ◆ Jackie Eubank
- ◆ Tom & LaVonne Haines
- ◆ Keith Hodges
- ◆ Beulah Keppler
- ◆ Bob Meiers
- ◆ Gaylin Miller
- ◆ Liz Miller
- ◆ Mike Miller
- ◆ Janice Ortman
- ◆ Hallie & Don Phillips
- ◆ Jewel Price
- ◆ Carol Waterman
- ◆ Katie Wood
- ◆ Shirley Young
- ◆ Geco "Hannah's Aunt"

Health

Encouragement

- ◆ Bill Copes
- ◆ Don Craig
- ◆ Dorris Hueter
- ◆ Matt Wood

Order of Service

Morning

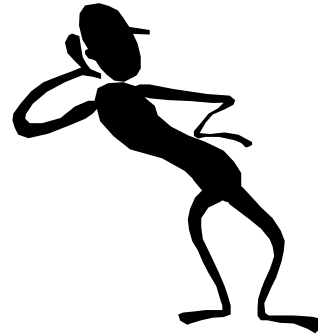
Song Leader	Bob Calvert
Prayer	David Craig
Table	Don Craig
Assist	Arnold Miller
Assist	Eric Whitaker
Assist	Charlie Bryson
Lesson	Shawn Daniels
Prayer	Jerry Witt

Evening

Song Leader	David Craig
Prayer	Eric Whitaker
Lesson	Men's Night
Prayer	Arnold Miller

From Ogden Biblical Recourses
Thought for the Day, www.aogden.com

Gossip is when you hear something you like about someone you don't.



This Morning Sermon

"The Love of God"

(John 3:16) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Memory Verse

Let us work on expanding our knowledge and memory of the scriptures.

(1 Peter 4:8) "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

What is the gospel of Christ? I believe that Paul summed it up best when he said, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." (1 Cor 15:3-4) The gospel of Christ is the good news of his death for our sins, the fact he was buried, because of this death, and that he rose up again.

Paul also teaches that we obey this form of doctrine. He says, "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you." (Rom 6:17) And at the point that we obey then are we made free from sin! (Rom 6:18)

He describes how we obey that form in a few verses prior when he said, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Rom 6:3-4) And so, the gospel of Christ is the good news of what Christ did for us and all that is included in this system of faith. That is facts to be believed, commands to be obeyed, and promises to be received.

Paul says that this gospel is the power of God unto salvation. This is not a limit to God's power. God has many different powers. He has a power to create. (Gen 1:1) Of course, even this power was transmitted by the spoken word. (Gen 1:3) To say that the power of God to sal-

vation is in His gospel does not limit God's power, but He selected this medium for his power to give you salvation. Paul says, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." (1 Cor 1:18) Again, he says, "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (1 Cor 1:21) God's power in giving you salvation is in His gospel and the preaching of that gospel.

He says that this power of God unto salvation is to those that believe the gospel. There is no salvation granted to unbelievers of God's gospel. The reason for this is because the unbeliever will not use the power of God. If we transpose this section of the verse we can get a clearer view of what Paul is saying and not distort the meaning. This verse could read, "To every one that believeth it (the gospel) is the power of God unto salvation." The believer holds the power of God unto salvation in his own hands. He can decide to use this power and become saved or he decides to let it slip. This idea of Paul is in complete harmony with John when John wrote, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to be-

come the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." (John 1:12) These two verses are completely parallel in idea. To those that believe on the name of Christ, God gives power to salvation!

GSD

The believer holds the power of God unto salvation in his own hands. He can decide to use this power and become saved or he decides to let it slip.

how to get it; second, how to use it. The principle that governs the making of it is honesty. "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men." (2 Cor. 8:21.) The principle that governs the use of it is stewardship. "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1 Pet. 4:10.) In chemistry there is a process called alchemy--the process of changing baser metals into the finer silver and gold. Spiritual alchemy is changing silver and gold into something better. That is transmutation--exchanging money for souls. (1 Tim. 6:17-19.)

HOW TO GIVE

The fact that the New Testament does not bind tithing on Christians is not an exemption from giving nor a palliative for the conscience of a penurious, covetous member of the church. The Christian's life is a trust. The Christian is a trustee, a steward. From this viewpoint it is not a question of how much a Christian must give to obey God, but rather how much he can keep and please God.

But what is the standard by which to determine the amount? I answer: The Pauline standard--Paul's teaching on the subject--the same standard he gave to the Corinthians. Two entire chapters in the second letter to the Corinthians are devoted to the subject of how to give. Note the following from these chapters (eighth and ninth). Remember, the subject is how to give. "Abound in this grace"; "readiness to will"; "out of that which ye have"; "a willing mind"; "according to that a man hath"; "that there may be equality" (not some eased and others burdened); "not as of covetousness"; "sow sparingly, reap sparingly"; "not grudgingly, or of necessity"; "a cheerful giver"; "liberal distribution"; and "as a man purposeth in his own heart (the purpose based on these principles), so let him

give."

But suppose one will not so purpose? God will judge him as he does the one who does not purpose to do other things Christians are exhorted to do. The tithing argument does not correct that evil, as the same contingency would exist.

FIRST CORINTHIANS SIXTEEN

The subject may be abbreviated in the following outline based on Paul's order to the churches:

1. The command to give--"lay by him in store."
2. When to give--"upon the first day of the week."
3. Who shall give--"let every one of you."
4. How shall one give--"as God hath prospered him."
5. Why should all give--"that there be no gatherings (collections) when I come" - - that there may be readiness at all times to do what is needful.

The scope of New Testament principles comes within the range of these passages and principles. The plan is complete. It calls for systematic, regular, individual, liberal, conscientious giving. The result will be readiness for every good work without drumming the church about Jewish tithing.

Liberal giving does not impoverish the giver. It rather enriches "in everything to all bountifulness." (2 Cor. 9:11.) The Macedonians gave "beyond their power." (2 Cor. S3.) But the highest example of giving is Christ himself. (2 Cor. 89.) The Christian in whose heart the love of Christ lives will be able to sing without mental reservations:

"Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold, Take my life and let it be, always, only, Lord, to thee."

FEW



The Christian's Trust

By: Foy E. Wallace Jr.

The following from Brother Thomas G. Fowler, San Antonio, Texas, is worthy of space and warrants further remarks in this column on the subject of the Christian's giving.



"I read with interest your editorial, "Tithing or Giving?" I accept your conclusion on "tithing." But question: Two brethren have equal expenses and equal incomes-salaries. Each gives as he "purposes in his heart," but one gives twenty-five cents and the other gives five dollars. Each gave as he "purposed." Did each give as the Lord would have him give? How may a brother know when his purpose of heart is what it ought to be? Am I to satisfy myself only? By what standard is the purpose of heart to be measured? Do you say "as you are prospered"? Then what percent of that prosperity? Who is to determine the question? I want to know that I am right. With these questions before you, please give us

another editorial on giving." The question of finances is not new. It is an ancient problem. Nor is it the problem of the church only, but of every individual and organization. Money is, in fact, a peculiar commodity. It has no character of its own. It is neither righteous nor unrighteous. Its moral quality is derived, its character imparted, from its owner. Its effects are varied. It will expand one heart into philanthropy and sink another into selfishness. It has the shriveling, puckering qualities of a green persimmon. It is the nearest thing to omnipotence on earth.

The possession of money not ill gotten is not sinful. Wealth is no more a vice than poverty is a virtue. Among God's people there have always been men of wealth. Abraham, David and Solomon in the Old Testament; and Jason, Barnabas and Philemon in the New Testament are examples.

There are two questions involved in the Christian's attitude toward money. First,

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The Work of the Church

By: RL Whiteside

Who guides and controls the work of the church? "And he is the head of the body, the church" (Col. 1:18; see also Eph. 1:22,23). The church is the body of Christ, over which he is head. The head guides and controls the body; the body is subject to the head. Christ guides and controls the church; it is subject to him. The church is a kingdom, an absolute monarchy. Christ is King, has all authority (Matt 28:18), and must reign till he has conquered all enemies (1 Cor 15:25).

In New Testament times, the will of Christ as revealed by his chosen representatives was the church's only guide. The New Testament is his revealed will to us.

The New Testament gives us an account of the work done by the church under the direction of inspired me. What is the work of the church? I believe it is comprehended in the three following divisions: First, edifying, or building up, itself; second, relieving the wants of the poor and needy; third, preaching the gospel to people who are not Christians. Let us notice these divisions in their order:

1. It is designed to edify itself, to develop its members in the divine life.

From whom all the body, fitly framed and knit together through that which every joint supplieth, according to the working in

due measure of each several part, maketh increase of the body unto the building up of itself in love. Eph. 4:16; see also 1 Cor 14:4,5,12,17,26.

The church is built up by the proper development of each member into activity in the Christian life. There can be no growth in grace without exercise.

2. The church is a benevolent institution. The needs of each member were supplied (Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-35). The poor widows were cared for in the Jerusalem church (Acts 6:1-6). The disciples at Antioch sent aid to the famine stricken at Jerusalem (Acts 11:27-30). The churches in Macedonia and Achaia made another contribution for the poor saints at Jerusalem (Rom 15:25-31, 2 Cor 8). Paul instructed Timothy concerning the support of widows (1 Tim. 5:3-16).

3. The church is a missionary institution; the church sent direct to the missionary. Read carefully 2 Cor. 11:7-9 and Phil 4:14-18.

Such, in brief, is the work of the church. But human institutions have robbed the church of its work. There are societies for doing every work God intended the church to do. But an objector says: "If they do the work God intends shall be done, they surely do a good work." Yes, the works aimed to be done by these societies are good works. "What objections, then, can you have?" It is God's wisdom that these works shall be done by the church. He planted it for that very purpose, and he who seeks to do them another

way sets his wisdom against the wisdom of God. He who goes contrary to God's wisdom cannot succeed. These institutions may grow and prosper for awhile, but "every plant which my father hath not planted shall be rooted up." It is admitted by all that the church should do the work referred to, but society advocates say the church fails to do its duty and we must get up something that will do the work. That is, God undertook to do this work through the church but failed. We will beat him; we will organize societies that will succeed. That is the spirit of it. That is exalting human wisdom above God's wisdom and man's works above God's works. Vain foolish man! Brethren, that is the boldest sort of presumption.

Brother W. H. Timmons compared the societies to mobs. The comparison is true. Every man in a mob knows the government should punish criminals. But sometimes the authorities fail to enforce the laws as they should, and this furnishes a pretext for a mob. When the authorities fail to punish criminals, some get up something that will. This is the only plea for a mob, and it is the only excuse for the existence of a society or institution of any kind to do the work of the church. Men in a mob might say, "If we are doing what should be done, why object to the mob? This puts the mob and the society on the same footing; the principle is the same.

In robbing the church of its work, you rob God of his glory. Eph. 3:10-21. RLW

Article taken from **Doctrinal Discourses, Whiteside, pg. 11**

Visit us on the web at:

www.panachurch.com

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

Announcements

Birthdays this month:

Jerry Witt	4
Skylar Daniels	11
Bob Calvert	13
Hannah Baker	14
Jesse Cyrus	15
Earl Baker	22
Ed Brown	22
Debbie Craig	22
Kayleigh Young	23
Bev Cyrus	27

Anniversaries this month:

Doris and Arnold Miller	16
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Tell an out-of-town friend to sign up for an e-Bulletin, and they can have an e-Bulletin delivered to their email inbox every week!



Hickory Estates Singing Night will be held on February 26, 2009 at 6:30 pm.

READ AND STUDY YOUR BIBLE DAILY!

"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels"

(Prov 1:5)



Presented by the church of Christ in Pana, Illinois Women's Online Bible Study

The Women's Online Bible Study was designed to give women, that perhaps cannot come to a traditional class, a chance to study the Bible with others. If you are interested in signing up or know others in the community or abroad that may be interested, please pass the word of this work.

