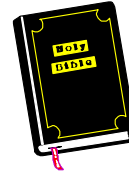


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

“every disciple that is perfect, shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b



HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

This is similar to, “How can I know I am in love?” That is, there is no explicit chart or diagram to show the answer to either. There is, however, an imaginary barometer with which we can derive our answer.

Giving and love go hand in hand. As one has said, “You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.” My love for someone special is demonstrated in my giving. (Certainly not to be confused with just simply giving gifts!) My love for God is also demonstrated in my giving. (Certainly not to be limited to just money!) When I truly love God, I begin to ask the question stated: How much should I give God? When one first begins to understand God and His purpose for mankind, he/she might have the attitude of, “How much can I give God?” Clearly there is a difference in “can” and “should.” One term (can), shows a determination to limit giving, while the other term (should) shows an attitude of submission and pure conscience toward giving. So how much should one give to the Lord?

Let us be reminded first of all, that the Old Law (Law of Moses), has been taken out of the way and that our giving today is regulated by the New Testament. The law of the Jew commanded that he give 10% of all he had made to the support of the Levitical Priesthood. In addition to this, he was commanded to give “the festive 10th” (Deuteronomy 14:22-27), and the “third year 10th” (Deuteronomy 14:28,29). Furthermore, they had to leave grain in the field for the poor and let their crops rest every 7th year. Though we are not commanded to give a specific percentage as were the Jews, we must allow the liberality of the Old Testament Jews to be an example for us today. Far too many members of the Lord’s church excuse their “stinginess” by saying, “Oh well, we are not commanded to give a tenth today.” Well, then; what are we to give? ***(Continued on page 3)***

“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” - 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

**Giving is one way, or not, to ...
Choose the Straight Gate in 2008**

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 3 January 20, 2008

RECORDS 1/13/2008

SERMONS 1/20/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 48
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 100
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 62
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 51
CONTRIBUTION: \$2037

AM: Jerry Manning
THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST, Part 1
PM: Jerry Manning
THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST, Part 2

**“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet,
because that your faith grows exceedingly,
and the charity of every one of you all toward each other abounds”
- 2 Thessalonians 1:3**

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

ELDERS

Donald Klieves

Home Phone (803) 996-3793
E-Mail: DKlieves@yahoo.com

Ed Kelleher

Office Phone (803) 796-8858
Home Phone (803) 791-0950
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com

EVANGELIST

Jerry Manning

Home Phone (803) 936-1502
Cell Phone (803) 429-3738

E-Mail: Jerry1Manning@yahoo.com
Bulletin Editor—Ed Kelleher

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson), Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- Anna Porter is fighting a chronic breathing problem. Pray she'll be stronger later this month when she goes to visit her grandson Stevie and her new great-grand baby.
- Remember the Dillards, Ron Banks and Eddie Sheppard also as they continue to fight illness.
- Elleen Lester is home with the Boyd's recovering from a heart/kidney infection.
- Darrel Macon's mother-in-law is recovering from a severe blow to the head, fortunately it appears without permanent damage.
- Jerry requests prayers for his sister, Lynn Drago who is gravely ill with cancer, that she obey the Gospel.
- Remember all these and brother Manning and his bible studies at LCDC and Heartland assisted living center in your prayers.

**"I intreated thy favor with my whole heart:
be merciful unto me according to thy word." - Psalm 119:58**

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15

- Sister Kenya Harley made it back safely from a teaching trip to Mexico. While there, she stepped in to teach a VBS class using a Spanish interpreter which she said was quite an experience. Kenya and her sister Quenia recently identified with the congregation here.
- We rejoice as Robert Eubanks heard the Gospel, repented, confessed Jesus name and was baptized into Christ this past Sunday morning. He was introduced to the church by our new brother, Darius Zimbalwe.

"That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it." - 1 Corinthians 12:25,26

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- A budget for 2008 has been approved by the elders and will be presented to the congregation this Sunday after the morning assembly. All members are encouraged to stay a short while for this.
- We need a teacher for 2-3 year olds as we now have some of this age here.
- Youth Rally at St. Andrews Road, Saturday 1/26/2008.
- Area wide singing at the Twin City church in Batesburg, Sunday 1/27/2008.

**"But my God shall supply all your need
according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:19**

Giving is one way to ...
Choose the Straight Gate in 2008

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE? - (continued from page 1)

MORE! In the New Testament we are commanded to give more than the Jews did. The principle of the NT is not based on tithing, and commands that we go beyond the line of duty in our giving as well as in our living. According to Matthew 5:20 Christ said, **“For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”** The Pharisee's righteousness included “tithes of all I get” (Luke 18:12). If we truly believe that our righteousness must exceed theirs, then we must give more than they were required to give. The Jews had large families as many have today, his income was slight, and yet he planned to give as he was commanded to give. Remember, for about 1500 years there was never a Jew born that couldn't give a 10th. God is better to us today. Are we better to Him?

Christianity is the “second mile” religion. Matthew 5:41, **“And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.”** We must understand that every Christian should not have the attitude of, “I'll give what I must”, but rather “I will give as much as I can.” No one of us should try and “get by” by giving comfortably, but rather we should give, as others have said, “until it hurts.”

Note the following passages: 2 Corinthians 9:11 (give liberally); 2 Corinthians 9:7 (give cheerfully and with purpose); 2 Corinthians 9:5 (give according to our promise); 2 Corinthians 8:7 (we are to abound in our giving). While the New Testament does not set a specific amount that one is to give, it does render us guidelines – strict guidelines! If my giving is done without purpose, consideration for the work of the church, my fellow man, my God, and my soul – I need to rethink my giving!

- Kirk Talley, minister, Livingston church of Christ, Livingston TN

“Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” - 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

It's up to you, to ...
Choose the Straight Gate in 2008