

*“Blessed Giving!” Acts 20:35*

**I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ Acts 20:35**

*More blessed = more deserving of God’s blessing to give; then to receive...*

*Paul’s words are in the context of his farewell message to the Ephesian elders*

*Requested sermon*

*Bill Gothard article Ron Breen*

*I love it when people request sermons, I believe God’s Word speaks to every issue!*

### *I. Blessed giving is motivated by love –*

**And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:3**

1. *Note Paul is talking about extreme giving:*

A. **all my goods**

B. **my body to be burned** – *All of myself, my life!*

2. *He is saying, no love, no blessing for the giver - **it profits me nothing.***

A. *I have never given all my goods, or my body to be born, have you?*

B. *Yet, I have been giving my niece Jil, my brother Phil’s daughter, chicken things since she was a little girl and now she is a young adult and she **LOVES** them! Why?*

- *She loves chickens!*
- *She knows they are gifts of love*
- *David Frahm’s gift to his future wife Anne, proof it is LOVE that makes the gift!*

### *II. Blessed giving aims to please God, not men –*

**“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a**

**trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.**

- 1. Sadly, we tend to blow trumpets about our charitable deeds...*
- 2. Secret giving is Blessed giving as it wins God's favor!*

### *III. Blessed giving gives refreshment and vitality to Christ's Body, and will be rewarded –*

**For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. Mark 9:41**

- 1. Water is a refreshing thing*
- 2. It is given because of a connection to Christ, meaning love for Christ is at least part of the motivation*
- 3. Though a cup of water is a small thing, God will reward in Heaven, why? Because God rewards every little thing we do right and that we do for His Son / His people –*

**For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. Hebrews 6:10**

### *IV. Blessed giving should flow over even to our enemies, not because of who they are, but despite who they are, and because of who we are, as God's people –*

**If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. Matthew 5:40**

**“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on**

the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

**Matthew 5:43-48**

1. *Our enemies / God's enemies do not deserve kind treatment!*
2. *We give them kind treatment because of Christ, He loved us when we were enemies –*

**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8**

3. *Our love, our giving will either convert them, or increase their pains in Hell –*

**Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:20-21**

*V. Blessed Giving never depletes us but gains us greater blessings from God –*

**The wicked borrows and does not repay, But the righteous shows mercy and gives. For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth, but those cursed by Him shall be cut off. Psalm 37:21-22**

**I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lends; And his descendants are blessed. Psalm 37:26—27**

1. *Ever think out about how these verses from Psalm 37 work out in life? Dear old dad is so generous, he is giving away the family fortune ... yet his descendants are blessed. Psalm 37:27*

2. *Psalm 37 instruction for BLACK FRIDAY, meekness wins –*

**But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. Psalm 37:11**

**A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, But the LORD upholds the righteous. Psalm 37:16-17**

*3. Blessings now, plus treasure in Heaven –*

**“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21**

*VI. Blessed giving is not possible without the fear of the LORD, the fear of God –*

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever. Psalm 111:10**

*1. Oh, how dreadfully important “fear of the LORD” is to our handling of money, even to our “giving” -*

**But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?” She said, “Yes, for so much.” Then Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out,**

**buried her by her husband. So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. Acts 5:1-11**

*2. Note, they GAVE, but lied and died!*

*3. This won't likely happen the same way today, but God still sees and judges –*

**Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. Galatians 6:7**

## *VII. Blessed giving, trusts (has faith) proves and glorifies God –*

**He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. Proverbs 22:9**

*1. Note the blessing is with the “generous eye” BLESSINGS are happiness, due to God's favor!*

*2. God promises to bless those who give, not only to the poor but to God's work –*

**Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the LORD of hosts; And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land,” Says the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:10-12**

*Consider how Malachi 3 applies:*

*A. To the church*

- Some of you may remember my predecessor's attempt to sell our building*
- As an elder, I remember a meeting we had with a man from Faith Presbyterian, he counseled us to support missionaries –*

**Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:17-19**

*B. To us as individuals –*

**Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10**

- *Now we should seek Heavenly blessings –*

**If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. Colossians 3:1-2**

- *We should seek God's smile, His love, His grace –*

**But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 2Corinthians 9:6-8**

*When we give cheerfully, God does the same to us!*

*He gives to us, that we might give even more to others ...*

*C. To us as a nation, we have taken prayer and the Bible out of schools and government, because of it our morality is FALLING FAST! Yet, however little it is our nation still has:*

*(1) In God we trust on coins*

*(2) Tax exceptions for church*

*It is a little honor that we have given God as a nation that we have not yet taken away... What happens when we do?*

*It will be a horrible day, and for many it already is, when the Almighty Dollar is trusted more than Almighty God –*

**Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your**

hearts as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you. James 5:1-6

*VIII. Blessedness, meaning “true salvation” is tied to faith in Christ that sees (meaning sees God’s kingdom) and GIVES –*

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ” And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.” So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.” Then Peter said, “See, we have left all and followed You.” Luke 18:18-27

*The new birth, faith enables us to see the Kingdom of God – John 3:3*

Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. Matthew 13:45-46

*Arnold Brevick*