

Haggai 1; Lord's Day 38

SABBATH: THANKFUL GIVING

- I. The History.
 - A. Giving in the Old Dispensation.
 - 1. First, they collectively gave for the construction of the tabernacle (Ex. 25:1-9).
 - 2. The ceremonial law demanded that they give first.
 - B. In the New Testament church the apostles continued the practice of offerings as a part of worship.
 - 1. The office of deacon was instituted for the purpose of caring for the needs of the Grecian widows (Acts 6).
 - 2. Romans 12:8 lists giving as a gift (also “helps” in I Cor. 12:28).
 - 3. Special collections were taken to assist those impoverished in special ways.
 - 4. I Corinthians 9:3-15 calls for the support of the ministry of the gospel.
- II. The concept of giving as a part of the worship of God.
 - A. Conclusion drawn from history.
 - 1. Offerings of money were a regular part of how God was worshipped in the tabernacle and temple.
 - 2. Besides collections for the poor, there is also the right of those who nurture us spiritually (Gal. 6:6; I Cor. 9:8-14).
 - 3. Scripture makes no essential difference between giving in worship.
 - 4. That collections were urged on the first day of the week implies offering is a part of worship.
 - B. Worship involves two things.
 - 1. Worship is meeting God with adoration and praise out of gratitude for what He has done for us.
 - 2. Worship is the confession that all that we are and have is of the Lord.
 - C. The offerings which are part of our worship service are continual reminders of our proper spiritual perspective.
- III. This act of worship is to be implemented “cheerfully” (II Cor. 9:7).
 - A. We are to give as God purposed in our heart.
 - B. We are not to give “grudgingly or of necessity.”
 - C. Rather we are to strive for “cheerful” giving, i.e., joyous, with great happiness because we are so grateful.
 - D. May we strive ever for cheerful giving for that is true worship.