

Why Give to the Lord?

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Introduction: Giving of our means is a part of our worship to God. Each Lord's Day we gather with the intent and purpose of returning a portion of the income the Lord has given to us. The primary reason we do this is out of respect and obedience to the Lord's command (1 Cor. 16:1-2). Are there other reasons we should give?

I. Giving to the Lord should be an attitude of heart.

A. We should be ready and willing to give (2 Cor. 8:10-12). This should reflect an attitude of giving of ourselves first (2 Cor. 8:5).

B. We should give cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7). We should not feel that we have to give. We should not give if we don't want to give but if this is our attitude, we might as well keep the money in our pockets. God wants us to want to give!

C. The Macedonians were generous in their giving (2 Cor. 8:1-4). They gave liberally and beyond their own ability. They were impoverished. Yet they desired to see the work of the Lord continue.

II. In contrast by worldly standards, we are rich. We live in the wealthiest nation in the world; even our poor live well.

A. Our wealth is an opportunity to do much good for the Lord (1 Tim. 6:17-19). We can turn our wealth into something far more substantial ... eternal life!

B. What other blessings can we expect from our generosity?

1. The generous will prosper (Prov. 11:25).

2. Our generosity will return in like proportions (Luke 6:38).

3. As we sow, we will reap (2 Cor. 9:6-11; Gal. 6:7-8).

a. Ask and it will be given (Matt. 7:7; Lk. 11:9).

b. God told David He is generous (2 Sam. 12:8).

4. Our generosity will glorify God (2 Cor. 9:12-15).

C. After Jesus gave the parable of the Unjust Steward, He made an interesting comment in Luke 16:10-12. Have you ever known a stingy person to be generous when he becomes wealthy? How about a generous person when he becomes wealthy? If we are not trustworthy with the riches that the Lord has obviously given us, can we expect God to trust us with true riches? Like a righteous character or a heavenly home? Think about it!

Conclusion: Our generosity does not go unnoticed by the Lord (Heb. 13:16). God is pleased with our sacrifices. Please give cheerfully from the heart.