

STATEMENTS CONCERNING GIVING - SUMMARY
PRAYERFULLY SUBMITTED BY AARON D. BROWN
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INTRODUCTORY MEDITATIONS

GAL 4:16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

HOS 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

PRO 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

REV 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

MAJOR POINTS MENTIONED IN BIBLE CLASS WITH SCRIPTURE SUPPORT

1. Are we concerned about people knowing the truth? We have seen countless examples on nationwide TV where sincere people have been beat out of their money. You should give as you are directed by the Spirit of God in your heart.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

PRO 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

PRO 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

2CO 9:7 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. Many people giving their money to TV were not directed by God to do it. However, you should give your money to the one who is feeding you spiritually. If it's the TV then go ahead and give it to the TV ministry.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

GAL 6:6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

ROM 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

ROM 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled

the law.

3. Since we are not under the law, but under grace, we are **blessed** for giving. The blessing is in giving. If a person has a willing mind, God accepts it, even if people don't. God is concerned about **quality** giving not **quantity** giving. How can a person be cursed when God has blessed them?

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

ROM 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

ACT 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

2CO 8:12 For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

NUM 23:8 How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied?

ROM 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

4. God is not broke and God doesn't spend money. No one should be pressured to give their money while their family suffers. Giving is an expression of love which all Christians must have.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

PSA 50:10 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

PSA 50:12 If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

1TI 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

1JO 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

1JO 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

JOH 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

5. No one can reap a good harvest who doesn't sow a good crop. Giving is not confined to money by any means. Every good gift that man has received he must be faithful in its use.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

2CO 9:6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

GAL 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

JAM 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

1CO 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

6. We must always recognize that the love of money is the root of all evil and many have strayed from the faith because of it.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE

1TI 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

7. Any correct and fair understanding of the Scripture **must** recognize the 3 major groups in the Bible. We must be careful not to take the instructions to one group and misapply them to another group.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

1CO 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

2TI 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

THE NOTES BELOW REFLECT THE BASIC TEACHINGS OF THE STEWARDSHIP TEXTBOOK THAT THE STUDENTS WERE REQUIRED TO READ FOR THE COPP OF THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. THE BOOK SHOULD BE READ AND GIVEN A FAIR STUDY BEFORE BEING JUDGED EITHER GOOD OR BAD. KEY STATEMENTS ARE INDICATED WITH THE PAGE NUMBERS IN PARENTHESES FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO GET AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK IN A FEW MINUTES.

STEWARDSHIP #206
 TEXT - GIVING GOD'S WAY BY JOHN MACARTHUR
 Notes compiled by Aaron D. Brown
 2002

1. Money is a good barometer of your spirituality (18).
2. Money is itself amoral; but it can be used for good or evil (20).
3. Giving is God's way of raising children (50).
4. You cannot logically prove a case for tithing by saying it was before the law, because animal sacrifice and the Sabbath were also before the Law (51).
5. God's plan for giving in the Old Testament was twofold: required giving and freewill giving.
6. The Hebrew word translated 'tithe' (maaser) and its Greek counterpart 'dekate' were not religious terms but mathematical terms. The tithes of Abraham and Jacob were freewill gifts and were not requirements like the tithe under the Mosaic Law (52).
7. God **did not** institute tithing in Genesis nor is there any universal law of tithing given in Scripture (53).
8. Abraham did not give a tenth of all his income to Melchizedek nor is it ever recorded that he paid tithes anymore in his life (56). The Greek word for spoils mentioned in Hebrews 7:4 is **akrothinion** and means "pinnacle, the top of the heap."
9. Jacob was trying to bribe God by paying tithes and God **never** commanded Jacob to pay tithes (57-58).

10. An example of required giving before the Mosaic Law can be found in Genesis 41.
11. Freewill giving was directed toward the Lord and was offered personally, as a response of love and sacrifice (59).
12. Leviticus 27:30 called the Lord's tithe stated that ten percent of all land and seeds and fruit belonged to God. If a person wanted to keep his fruit he could give money instead by adding a fifth part (60). This is the first tithe with the emphasis on quantity. Nowhere in this text is there any support to say you owe God 5 % for being late. That is reading something into the Holy Bible which is not there!
13. The second tithe is mentioned in Deut. 12 (also called the festival tithe), it taught community and social involvement (63).
14. The third tithe mentioned in Deut. 14:28 was a welfare program for the poor, the widows, and the people who didn't have anything to eat (63).
15. The three tithes funded the Levites (government), a national feast (community), and help for the poor (welfare) (64).
16. A Jew paid a minimum of 25 percent a year in required giving. This was taxation, required giving (65).
17. Voluntary giving emphasized not quantity or percentage, but the attitude of the giver and the quality of the gift (65).
18. Not only was tithing **not** New Testament giving, it was **not** even Old Testament giving (68).
19. In the New Testament, pay your taxes (required giving) and give God whatever you want (freewill giving) (75).
20. As a Christian you ought to find every way possible to pay your taxes (82).
21. There are 10 principles for our giving:
 1. Giving is investing with God.
 2. Giving is to be sacrificial.
 3. Giving is not only a matter of what we have.
 4. If you can't handle money, you can't handle spiritual riches either.
 5. Giving amounts are personally determined.
 6. Giving is to be in response to need.

7. Giving is to demonstrate love not law.
 8. Giving is to be planned.
 9. Giving is to be generous.
 10. Generous giving always results in God's blessings.
22. The **author** (Dr. John MacArthur) doesn't believe you will find tithing in the New Testament (102).
23. God has given us so much, we cannot set a limit on how much to give him (104).

KEY BIBLE VERSES ON MONEY USED IN CHAPTERS 1 AND 2

LUK 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

MAR 10:23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

1TI 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1TI 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

MAT 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

1TI 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

1TI 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

MAT 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

PRO 30:8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

JOB 31:24 If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence;

JOB 31:28 This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above.

PRO 11:28 He that trusteth in his riches shall fall; but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

1TI 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

DEU 8:11 Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

DEU 8:12 Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;

DEU 8:13 And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

DEU 8:14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

PRO 28:11 The rich man is wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.

JER 12:1 Righteous art thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of thy judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously?

JER 12:2 Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root: they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit: thou art near in their mouth, and far from their reins.

1JO 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

PSA 37:21 The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.

MAT 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

PRO 28:19 He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough.

PRO 14:23 In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

2TH 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

PRO 6:6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

PRO 6:7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

PRO 6:8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

PRO 20:4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

PRO 21:20 There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.

PRO 30:25 The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;

PRO 30:26 The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;

PRO 27:23 Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.

PRO 27:24 For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?

ROM 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

PRO 22:7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

1CO 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

PRO 11:24 There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

PRO 21:5 The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

PRO 13:18 Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.

PRO 20:13 Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

PRO 23:21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

2KI 4:7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

ACT 2:45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

1CO 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

CHAPTER 3

2CO 8:5 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.

LEV 27:30 And all the tithes of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD.

DEU 14:28 At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithes of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates:

LEV 19:9 And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest.

LEV 19:10 And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the LORD your God.

PRO 3:9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

PRO 3:10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

2CO 9:10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

PRO 11:24 There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

EXO 25:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

EXO 25:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.

DEU 16:10 And thou shalt keep the feast of weeks unto the LORD thy God with a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand, which thou shalt give unto the Lord thy God, according as the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:

1JO 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

MAT 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

LUK 18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

HEB 7:1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

HEB 7:2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

HEB 7:3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

HEB 7:4 Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

LUK 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

MAT 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

MAT 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

MAT 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

MAR 12:41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

MAR 12:42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

MAR 12:43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:

MAR 12:44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

HEB 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

LUK 16:11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will ye commit to your trust the true riches?

ROM 15:25 But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.

ROM 15:26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

ROM 15:27 It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.

John McArthur's Conclusion: We have learned that our giving should be sympathetic, systematic, purposeful, weekly. And (this is a tough one) our giving should be sacrificial. People often ask me, "How much should I give?" I don't know how much you should give. That's between you and God. But remember, Zaccheus gave 50 percent for a starter. I don't think that's the norm. But I'll tell you one thing, it sure shoots holes in the 10 percent theory. I don't believe you will find tithing in the New Testament. The important thing is to give sacrificially. David said, "I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing" (2 Samuel 24:24, NASB). I love that statement.

Giving should also be secret and humble (see Matthew 6). The Pharisees loved to announce, "I'm going this much," so everyone would know and be impressed. God says, "Be quiet and humble. Let your giving be between you and Me." That's the way to give. "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 6:1, KJV). If you give to impress men, then you get their praise, not God's. "Therefore when thou does thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets" (v.2.). Can you imagine that? "Hey, everybody! Look, I'm giving!" Why this display? "That they may have glory of men."

Jesus said, "But when thou does alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly" (vv. 3,4).

I can't tell you how much to give, but if law required a 10 percent minimum, I would think that barely scratches the beginning of what grace deserves.

When you consider how much God has given to you, can you possibly set a limit on how much to give to Him? He has given spontaneously and totally, freewill giving at its absolute best. Dare you do less?

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