

“10-10-10”

A Bible Study on the Grace of Giving

1. What is your reaction to the following statement? “God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply.”
2. Which of the two following statements do you agree with the most? Share why.
 - a. Giving is a proposition of “hearts for God.”
 - b. Giving is a proposition of “purses for the church.”
3. What role does our “old Adam” play in making such teachings of the Bible as the teaching of giving a tithe difficult to put into practice? (cf. Romans 7:14-24)
 - a. What hope does Romans 7:25 offer to us in our struggle against the “old Adam”?
4. Let’s talk about motivation for giving. Consider the following statements and discuss what kind of motivation is involved for each.
 - a. You must give
 - b. You ought to give
 - c. You want to give
5. State whether you believe this statement is true or false: “The true motive for giving is God’s love for us in the forgiveness of sins through Christ Jesus.” (cf. 1 John 4:19)
6. In his book “Christian Stewards”, Rev. Waldo Werning suggests that “the first and big stewardship offering is to have a repentant heart, for unrepented sin and sinful habits hinder the stewardship life.” How does Matthew 5:23-24 support his statement? (cf. Psalm 51:16-17)
7. What do these Bible passages teach us about **why** we give?
 - a. 2 Corinthians 9:12 We give as an expression of _____ to God.
 - b. Proverbs 3:9 We give to _____ God.
8. What do these Bible passages teach us about **how** we are to give?
 - a. Mark 14:6 We give out of _____ for Christ.
 - b. Romans 12:8 We are to give _____.
 - c. 2 Corinthians 9:5, 7 We are to give _____.
 - d. Matthew 6:25-34 We are to give without _____ about tomorrow, trusting in God’s promises.

9. *What do we testify to when we practice “first fruits” giving (setting aside the portion we will give to the Lord prior to taking care of any other need)? Cf. Matthew 6:33*
10. *Tithing is a way of giving in proportion to the income we receive, whether large or small. Is tithing a commanded practice in the Bible or is it a commendable practice?*
11. *What promise does God make regarding tithing? cf. Malachi 3:8-10*
12. *In light of the promise in Malachi, do we give to get? Or, do we give because of God’s great and unending love to us in the forgiveness of our sins through the sacrifice of our Savior, Jesus Christ? Discuss how this impacts the various dimensions to our giving, such as our attitude about giving, our level of giving, and our willingness to give.*
13. *Given the fact that our stewardship flows from God’s gracious forgiveness of our sins for the sake of Christ, talk about the importance of our faithful use of the Means of Grace (Word and Sacrament) to our stewardship life.*

Bible Study notes:

1. *This true statement is intended to get the study off of the ground.*
2. *The intent of this question is to stress the truth that the Lord is more concerned with our hearts than He is with the size of our gifts.*
3. *It is important to understand our struggle to give, and how God’s grace provides us with the strength we need to gain ground in that struggle. It also is to help us see that sin does interfere with our giving.*
4. *a) Giving as legalism, b) giving from guilt, c) giving based on God’s grace*
5. *Only as this truth is realized will we grow in the grace of giving!*
6. *Going back to question 3, it is important to confess and receive forgiveness for our sins of greed, selfishness, and so many other sins which can be associated with a lack of giving to the Lord.*
7. *a) thanks, b) honor*
8. *a) love, b) generously, c) willingly, d) worry*
9. *We testify to the faithfulness of God in keeping His promises.*
10. *Commendable.*
11. *Blessings (but we don’t give to get)*
12. *You might ask, “What happens to our giving if we give to get, and then don’t get what we expected?” What happens to our giving if it is based on God’s grace in Jesus Christ?*
13. *How can we be faithful stewards if we are not feeding on Word and Sacrament?*

This Bible study was prepared by Pastor Dave Strohschein. “Christian Stewards” by Rev. Waldo Werning was utilized in the writing of this study.