

True Worship: Lay By in Store
1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Theme: Giving, worship

Aim: To show that giving is worship and how we are to give.

1. Money, politics and religion are, for many people, subjects that engender strong emotional reactions.
2. We have come now to the place where two of those intersect, money and religion.
3. There is probably no more sensitive aspect of the subject of worship than giving. I am not sure why that is the case, but folks are sensitive about money.
4. This morning I want to discuss giving as worship.

I. Is the act of giving an act of worship?

A. Remember that we gave the following definition in an earlier lesson.

1. Dictionary definition: “An act of paying divine honor to God; a feeling of respect or reverence for power, position, merit, virtue, etc.”
2. Words like honor, respect, veneration, praise, obeisance are words often used to help define worship.
3. Is the act of giving such an act?

B. The Old Testament serves to teach us that giving is worship (Romans 15:4).

1. There were at least five kinds of “offerings” or “sacrifices” commanded under the Old Law; Burnt offerings, grain offerings, fellowship offerings, sin offerings, guilt offerings.
2. What is an offering or sacrifice? It is something given, donated or dedicated to God.
3. Does not the why one would give, offer, or sacrifice to God carry with it the idea of praise, honor or reverence?
4. Here is a principle laid down by God through Moses: “None shall appear before me empty-handed...” Deuteronomy 16:16-17. Could we do less today?
5. Paul tells us specifically that generous giving can result in thanksgivings and glory being given to God, 2 Corinthians 9:10-15.

II. But with what attitudes and what spirit are we to give? Let us look at what Paul wrote to the Corinthians concerning the collection they were to take up, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:1-8.

A. The giving should be generous, 2 Corinthians 8:20, 9:6.

1. How much is that?
2. Surely the phrase as you have been prospered applies.
3. Look also at how much the Macedonians gave, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. *Does this open the idea that we are to give the intangibles to the Lord as well?*

B. The giving should be regular, the first day of the week, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.

C. As we have purposed, 2 Corinthians 9:7. Implies forethought and planning.

D. Not grudgingly or of necessity. Not duty giving.

E. Cheerfully, 2 Corinthians 9:7.

III. There is a joy and blessing in giving, Acts 20:35.

A. What happens to that which we lay up for ourselves?

1. Matthew 6:19-21.

2. Jesus told a parable about this, Luke 12:16-21.

3. Story of a man who gave away millions to help build buildings on a college campus. Then his business went belly-up. Someone asked him if he then wished he had kept what he had given to the college. His reply was that had he kept it, it, too, would have been lost. Only what he had given had really been kept.

B. Malachi 3:8-10.

1. We never lose what we give to God.

2. Giving to Him never makes us poorer.

1. Remember we are really just stewards of what God has given us. It all belongs to Him, anyway.

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;

All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive,

And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give.

2. Let us pray that God will accept our gifts as we first give of ourselves to Him.

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