

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

This is similar to, “How can I know I am in love?” That is, there is no explicit chart or diagram to show the answer to either. There is, however, an imaginary barometer with which we can derive our answer.

Giving and love go hand in hand. As one has said, “You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.” My love for someone special is demonstrated in my giving. (Certainly not to be confused with just simply giving gifts!) My love for God is also demonstrated in my giving. (Certainly not to be limited to just money!) When I truly love God, I begin to ask the question stated: How much should I give God? When one first begins to understand God and His purpose for mankind, he/she might have the attitude of, “How much can I give God?” Clearly there is a difference in “can” and “should.” One term (can), shows a determination to limit giving, while the other term (should) shows an attitude of submission and pure conscience toward giving. So how much should one give to the Lord?

Let us be reminded first of all, that the Old Law (Law of Moses), has been taken out of the way and that our giving today is regulated by the New Testament. The law of the Jew commanded that he give 10% of all he had made to the support of the Levitical Priesthood. In addition to this, he was commanded to give “the festive 10th” (Deuteronomy 14:22-27), and the “third year 10th” (Deuteronomy 14:28,29). Furthermore, they had to leave grain in the field for the poor and let their crops rest every 7th year. Though we are not commanded to give a specific percentage as were the Jews, we must allow the liberality of the Old Testament Jews to be an example for us today. Far too many members of the Lord’s church excuse their “stinginess” by saying, “Oh well, we are not commanded to give a tenth today.” Well, then; what are we to give? ***(Continued on page 3)***

“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 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 Corinthians 9:6,7

Giving more will help you ... OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!

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RECORDS 1/10/2010

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 42
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 78
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 43
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 41
CONTRIBUTION: \$2070

SERMONS 1/17/2010

AM: Jerry Manning
UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
PM: John Manning
OVERCOMING THE MOUNTAINS OF LIFE

**“But seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness;
and ALL these things shall be added unto you.” - Matthew 6:33**

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided
Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Lamar Reeves, Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Rebecca and Ryan Manning** are expecting their first child at the end of the month. This is a high risk pregnancy as **Rebecca** has some heart problems, so keep them in your prayers.
- **The Stoyk family (less Michael)** are traveling to Virginia, to be back Monday.
- **Craig Robinson** and **Brandon Hurley** request the prayers of the church.
- **Jean Boyd** had surgery on her leg and is in Richland Palmetto hospital.
- **Vernicia Matthews** continues to be in severe pain.
- Also, continue to remember sister **Anna Porter**, **Eddie Sheppard**, and **Marilyn Brooks** in your prayers.
- **Brother Manning** has many Bible studies during the week, remember these, those that are recovering from loss, in your prayers.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" - Matthew 7:7

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Singing!** Twin City Church in Batesburg Leesville, Sunday 1/31 2-4pm. See **Ed** if you'd like to ride along.
- **College age Bible study now on TUESDAYS at 8 pm.**
- Volunteers needed to **clean building** in 2010.
- **Transportation** needed for sisters **Betty Mathis**, **Jean Boyd** and **Marilyn Brooks**.
- **Pantry items** to bring to the church building. Remember, pop-tops are best.

1/17 Chef Boyardee Mac & Cheese 1/10 Dole Mandarin Oranges

“Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness” - Romans 4:3

THANKS

Don't you like to hear people say "Thank you"? And even more so when you know they mean it by some **action** of theirs. Do you thank a cook better by saying thank you, or by enthusiastically eating what they've prepared for you? Do you thank a teacher better by saying thank you, or by **using** what they've taught you in some good way? God has given us something we should be thankful for: **"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."** - **1 Corinthians 15:57** Wouldn't you like to hear God say, "You're welcome"? Let's thank him then, not in word but in **deed** (1 John 3:18) by **using** what he's given us, as He told us: **"But to DO good and to COMMUNICATE forget not: for with such SACRIFICES GOD is WELL PLEASED."** - Hebrews 13:16

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE? - (continued from page 1)

MORE! In the New Testament we are commanded to give more than the Jews did. The principle of the NT is not based on tithing, and commands that we go beyond the line of duty in our giving as well as in our living. According to Matthew 5:20 Christ said, **“For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”** The Pharisee's righteousness included “tithes of all I get” (Luke 18:12). If we truly believe that our righteousness must exceed theirs, then we must give more than they were required to give. The Jews had large families as many have today, his income was slight, and yet he planned to give as he was commanded to give. Remember, for about 1500 years there was never a Jew born that couldn't give a 10th. God is better to us today. Are we better to Him?

Christianity is the “second mile” religion. Matthew 5:41, **“And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.”** We must understand that every Christian should not have the attitude of, “I'll give what I must”, but rather “I will give as much as I can.” No one of us should try and “get by” by giving comfortably, but rather we should give, as others have said, “until it hurts.”

Note the following passages: 2 Corinthians 9:11 (give liberally); 2 Corinthians 9:7 (give cheerfully and with purpose); 2 Corinthians 9:5 (give according to our promise); 2 Corinthians 8:7 (we are to abound in our giving). While the New Testament does not set a specific amount that one is to give, it does render us guidelines – strict guidelines! If my giving is done without purpose, consideration for the work of the church, my fellow man, my God, and my soul – I need to rethink my giving!

- Kirk Talley, minister, Livingston church of Christ, Livingston TN

“Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 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. Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” - 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

It's up to you, to ...OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!

NOTICE: WE WILL BE TRIMMING OUR BULLETIN MAILING LIST IN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO. BULLETINS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org