

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Corinthians 9:6-10**.
Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ABIDES FOREVER." Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;
- B. Man is the beneficiary of X's death. God gives abundant blessings to those who give to Him.

I. ONE: SATISFACTION RECEIVED FROM GIVING.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 10:39**.
"He who has found his life shall lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake shall find it."
- B. The world is trying so many things to attain satisfaction. All of them are hopelessly in vain, if it is not following JC.
- C. The text says we shall find satisfaction in doing the things of X.
- D. Mt. 5:6 says those who hunger for spiritual things will be satisfied. When we give as commanded we receive a satisfaction the world cannot know.

II. TWO: A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING IS RECEIVED FROM GIVING.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 6:24**.
"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."
- B. By using our income to help support the church we are not "throwing our money away." The costs of so many things add up because we just keep paying for them,
- C. A high liquor bill, gambling, paying of traffic fines, etc., etc., all eat away at what a family could have. What we spend on vanity each week is astounding.
- D. By giving regularly, we invest our money in salvation--of our souls and the souls of others.

III. THREE: THERE IS A TERRIBLE COST IN NOT GIVING.

- A. Just as children will follow a good example they will also follow a bad one. By regularly not giving the child learns to not support the church as he should. This can lead to other bad actions as well.
- B. Story of man who complained about everything at worship; son says "not bad for a dollar."
- C. The church is not supported by a token amount or token lives.

IV. FOUR: GIVING MEANS INCREASED PROSPERITY.

- A. Scripture texts: **Mark 10:29,30; Proverbs 11:24,25**.
(**Mk 10:29-30**) Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, but that he shall receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life."
(**Prov. 11:24-25**) There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more, And there is one who withholds what is justly due, but it results only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, And he who waters will himself be watered.
- B. Those who have tried this kind of life knows it works. Those who haven't are skeptical.
- C. To have more, one must give more; see again Prov. 11:24-25.
- D. To try and get a bumper crop, the farmer does not invest in just a few seeds. He plants a great deal of them. We need to do more planting.

V. **FIVE: GIVING MEANS ONE HAS A BETTER PERSONALITY.**

- A. Those who are givers have selfless personalities and are generally happy people.
- B. Those in the world who hoard, are selfish in nature, and wanting things only for themselves. These are generally unhappy people.
- C. Both kinds of personalities will grow so that one will become better and better, while the other becomes worse and worse.
- D. Some people are like the Sea of Galilee (both in and out w/blessings), while others are like the Dead Sea (only things coming in). That's why it's called "dead."

VI. **SIX: MAKE FRIENDS OUT OF YOUR MONEY.**

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 16:9.**
"And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the mammon of unrighteousness; that when it fails, they may receive you into the eternal dwellings."
- B. These friends that can be made with money cannot be bribed, enticed by filthy lucre. What our Lord speaks of is using our money wisely, as He directs.
- C. The friends of this passage are God, X, and HS. They are the friends, because only they (along with the angels) can invite us to live in the eternal places of heaven.
- D. Our use of money while on earth will determine whether our Friends can invite us to heaven.

VII. **SEVEN: GIVING MEANS WE HAVE A MEMORIAL BEFORE GOD.**

- A. Many want to be remembered after their death. Some do it by willing sums of money to various individuals, institutions, or causes.
- B. Only the Xian knows that his memorial will receive full and complete blessings from God. When we do w/our money as we should, and then die. God knows and will remember all that we have done.
- C. The question is now asked: How big a memorial are you giving?

VIII. **EIGHT: GIVING MEANS THE RETURN OF THE PRINCIPLE.**

- A. Scripture texts: **Matthew 6:19-21; Proverbs 23:5.**
(Mt. 6:19-21) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
(Prov. 23:5) When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings, Like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.
- B. Many invest money because they want to use the interest gained off the principle. When this is done it closes off the use of the principle which is much bigger than the interest gained.
- C. Xian giving means that in the end we can received not only the use of any interest but forever can draw on the principle itself.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We conclude this lesson by asking each one to look deep into their heart and pocketbook.
- B. Our giving results in good being done unto others, and good being done unto ourselves.
- C. God has given us X that we in turn might give back to Him and to others.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.