

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2014

God's Plan of Giving

(1 Corinthians 16:2)

Sunday, November 2, 2014

Paul's instruction to the Corinthian Congregation outlines God's plan of giving. These principles lift the offering far above a traditional line in an order of Worship. Giving becomes a crucial part of Christ's mission to the world.

I. God's plan of giving involves every Christian.

Paul exhorted each one in the Corinthian Church to participate in giving to meet the needs of the world beyond their city. Giving is not an elective in the Christian curriculum. Christians, who fail to give, bear part of the responsibility for the gospel message not spreading. Studies of church giving indicate that 20 percent of the members carry the financial load; 60 percent give occasionally, and 20 percent give nothing. The church's mission will remain incomplete until "each one of us" gives to support it.

Sunday, November 9, 2014

II. Giving is an act of worship.

The Corinthians were instructed to give "on the first day of every week" – Sunday, the day of worship. Our offerings declare that God is worthy. The gift is an act of praise and thanksgiving; it is an admission of trust. Giving affirms God's lordship and our stewardship. God's people giving together is like a mighty anthem of praise affirming, "Worthy is the Lamb!" Don't miss the opportunity to worship. We haven't totally worshipped until we have given. God's plan includes each Christian giving as an act of worship.

Sunday, November 16, 2014

III. The Christian gives first to the church.

Since our gifts are an act of worship, they are to be presented to God through the local congregation where we are members. When Paul encourages each Christian to "set aside," he echoes the words of Malachi: "Bring the whole tithe

into the storehouse.” The church is God’s storehouse. The Corinthian church agreed to gather their resources to help meet the needs of the poor in Jerusalem. Compassion and commitment, planning and preparation lay behind their gift. Here is a pattern for today. The world needs to hear the good news and receive the rich gift of salvation. Millions are poor spiritually. Their hearing and believing depends on believer who are faithful in giving and churches that are faithful in sharing a portion of those gifts with those outside their Congregation.

Sundays, November 23, 30, 2014

IV. God’s plan calls for proportionate giving.

Paul anticipates the question: “How much should I give?” and says, “In keeping with your income.” Give in proportion to what God has entrusted to your stewardship. The tithe as a measure of devotion to Jesus Christ is only the beginning of giving. It is not the place to stop. But for many Christians, the tithe is the initial step in moving away from a life dominated by materialism, and it can become a doorway to a life of blessing.

It is difficult to conceive of a Christian wanting to give less than a tenth when the Hebrews gave far more under the law. Jesus said of the tithe, “there ought ye to have done” [Matt. 23:23], but he lifted giving above legalism to the level of love and liberality by saying, “freely ye have received, freely give” [Matt. 10:8].

This same principle applies to a congregation as well as to individuals. A church with abundant resources is able to give more. Examine what proportion of the gifts coming into your church goes beyond the church for mission outreach.

God’s will is for all to hear the gospel. How can evangelists and missionaries be sent without resources? Each time you walk around the offering table is an opportunity for God’s plan to be implemented. Every Christian can participate. With each gift each member worships with other church members and enables the Church to do its part in fulfilling God’s plan to reach our nation and the world.