

"My beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."—I Cor. 15:58.

How Christians Should Contribute Money to the Work of the Gospel

ROBERT H. SPIRO

WE present in this leaflet, in a brief, direct and simple manner, the principles that should direct the Christian in making his contributions of money to the work of the Gospel. These principles on the giving of money are derived from a study of the New Testament on this subject.

A very large amount of literature on giving has been printed and distributed by various denominational headquarters. In these writings the tithing method of giving has been generally taught.

But for our part, and in this brief presentation, it is not intended to reinforce teaching of tithing, but to present a method of giving which we are persuaded is reasonable, logical, simple, direct and blessed, and above everything else inspired, as being derived from principles discovered in the New Testament.

First. The Christian should give freely, and with the utmost personal liberty. He must give from the heart, willingly, for it is written, "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 Cor. 9:7.

In accordance with this plain statement from Holy Writ, the Christian should give his money in such a way, that it will be a joy to him, and free from any misgivings. I wonder how many contributions made by Christians are really accompanied with perfect liberty and true gladness of heart!

It is plainly understood from this Scripture, that the contributor of money is to decide for himself as to where, when, and how much he contributes to the cause of the Gospel. The amount he gives is his own act performed before

DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

the Lord, and a Christian's decision as to the contribution of his money must be left entirely in his own hands.

Second. The Christian should give his money to the work of the Gospel according to the degree of his prosperity. We read in I Cor. 16:2, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no collections when I come."

This Scripture points out that the amount the Christian is to contribute to the work of the Gospel should be according to the degree of his prosperity. If he has been blessed with financial success, he is instructed to contribute to Gospel work to an extent in keeping with his prosperity. But on the other hand, it is plainly understood, that if he has not prospered, and is not able to give, it is not expected of him to contribute, and he is excused from offerings to the extent of his financial inability to give. Such teaching is logical, clear and very fair.

Third. It should be observed, that the Christian is to bear in mind constantly the cause of the Gospel, and plan his financial contributions weekly. "Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store." His offerings are to be a part of his Christian walk, and a matter to be planned by him as he does his other personal affairs. It should be 'a work of faith,' and it is a truth in the contributions of money as with other phases of the Christian life, that "faith without works is dead." James 2:20.

Fourth. The Christian should contribute money to Ministers of the Gospel, and communicate other material benefits to them. The Minister labors in the Gospel and gives himself to the ministry of the word and prayer. In Galatians 6:6 we read, "Let him that is taught in the word communicate (contribute) to him that teacheth in all good things." It is also written, "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn." Deut. 25:4 and I Cor. 9:9. "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? Even so hath the Lord ordained, that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel." I Cor 9:11-14. And also "A laborer is worthy of his hire." —Luke 10:7.

If under the Law provision was made for the dumb ox to eat of the corn his owner caused him to tread, so also under Grace has it been ordained

that a Minister of the Gospel, laboring in word and prayer, should receive material supplies for his temporal needs at the hands of those to whom he distributes the bread of Eternal Life.

Therefore let us take heed to the doctrine. We should withhold any of our contributions of money from any work that does not truly represent Him or where His work is misrepresented by false agents. It will not be to His glory to make contributions to men who are mercenary in their motives. "There shall be false teachers among you who through covetousness shall make merchandise of you." 2 Peter 2:1-3. Take heed therefore that your offerings of money are not misplaced by being given to men and to works that are contrary to godliness and sound doctrine.

Fifth. Contributions of money should also be made to the work of the Gospel by men who are rich in this world's goods. The rich man who is a Christian has a word of instruction from the Bible to show him how to contribute. In I Timothy 6:17-18 we read: "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they trust in the living God . . . do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate (contribute) . . . that they may lay hold on eternal life."

This teaching from the word of God is very clear and needs no explanation. It teaches that the rich man should give liberally to the work of the Gospel: that he should distribute money to good causes: to the poor and needy; that he, out of his riches, should supply the needs of all the servants of the Lord possible. Let the rich man have a part in giving of his means to those who are spending their lives, their energies and their all to the telling of the glad tidings of God's redeeming grace!

Sixth. The Christian should make his contributions of money to the work of the Gospel as offerings unto the Lord Himself. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks unto God and the Father by him." Col. 3:17. Also "Whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God." I Cor. 10:31. **WHATSOEVER YE DO, DO IT HEARTILY AS TO THE LORD, AND NOT UNTO MEN.**" Col. 3:23.

The work of the Gospel is in charge of the Lord. He is the author of our salvation. He instituted the work. We are under His orders.

His command was "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.

Finally. In closing this presentation of the principles that should guide the Christian as to the giving of his money to the work of the Gospel, we would remind him that after all, it is required of every believer that he give his all to the Gospel cause. Jesus said "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the Gospel's the same shall save it." Mark 9:34. And it is also written, "When ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say: We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do." Luke 17:10.

The Christian should obey in all things the Lord that died for him. He is called upon to be a soldier in the army of the redeemed. Let him therefore be a good one. "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life, that he may PLEASE HIM who hath chosen him to be a soldier." I Tim.2:4.

"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood . . . be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." Rev. 1:5,6.

ROBERT H. SPIRO

Tract Depot and Christian Literature

11 Citizen Building Asheville, N. C.

OUR WORK: Free distribution of Gospel Tracts, and other Christian Literature, to Jews, Gentiles and Christians. Preaching in Churches, Missions, Sunday Schools, Jails, factories, and other institutions. Personal work and ministry.

OUR MESSAGE: "I declare unto you the Gospel . . . that Christ died for our sins. He was buried . . . He rose again . . . He is coming again with power and great glory." I. Cor 15.

OUR SUPPORT: Free will contributions of God's people. Their love and prayerful cooperation.

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." Psalm 56:22.

"For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

September 1929.