

"TFT Bible Class will equip you with Christain values, principles and doctrines with the aim of transforming you to become an effective disciple in the ministry of Christ."



TOPIC 3.3

BENEVOLENCE AND LAWS OF GIVING



KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will learn about the following:

- What are the different types of giving, the principles, or laws of giving.
- What is the difference between tithe and offering?
- What are the biblical principles of practicing benevolence and how does one engage in benevolence activities?

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Our God is a giving God. Giving is one of his attributes. Christians should take great joy in being able to reflect and share in God's attributes through the act of giving. Should Christians exact a tenth of all their income to the local church? How are believers to gauge their giving? Both the Old and New Testament help us sort out and resolve the confusion many feel about giving. The basic biblical priorities are simple and straightforward.

The first time we see tithing is when Abraham gave to Melchizedek in Genesis 14. In this story, Abraham, after his victory against Chedorlaomer, is the first person in the Bible to give one-tenth of all that he had. This was an act of worship and show gratitude to God. Abraham gave not because he had to or was told to but because he recognized the favor of God upon his life shown through the victory God has given him. We give, out of our hearts & love for God.

TYPES OF GIVING IN THE BIBLE

- The Willing Giver – Abraham, who offered his only son (Genesis 22:1-19).
- The Big Little Giver – The widow, who as she gave two mites, answered the question, "What is giving" and gave all she had (Mark 12:42-44) and became one of the finest examples of givers in the Bible.
- The Stingy Giver – Saul, who wanted to offer the spoils of the Amalekites (1 Samuel 14:17-23).
- The Sacrificial Giver – David, who refused to give that which cost him nothing (2 Samuel 24:24).
- The Covetous Givers – Ananias and Sapphira, (a second negative of the types of giving in the Bible) who held back part of the price of their possession pretending to give all (Acts 5:1-10).
- The Consecrated Givers – The Macedonians, who first gave of themselves to the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).
- The Life Givers – Peter and John, who had neither silver or gold, but instead gave life to the lame man (Acts 3:1-9).
- The Voluntary Giver – Zacchaeus, who gave of his goods to feed the poor without being asked (Luke 19:1-9).
- The Reward Givers – Those who gave to be seen of men. They had their only reward here on earth (Matthew 6:2).
- The Unpretentious Giver – The Samaritan, who made no show of his giving (Luke 10:25-37).

- The Perfumed Givers – The Philippians, whose gifts were “an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God” (Philippians 4:18).
- The Greatest Giver – God, who gave His only begotten Son for you and me that we might be saved (John 3:16-17).

In this list of types of giving in the Bible, which giver best describes you? Let’s seriously think about these examples of giving and then strive to give our best to the Lord and His service. The Lord gave us the best that heaven had to offer, the sacrifice of His Son (Hebrews 9:11-14; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

The other principle in giving which is important and sometimes we tend to overlook – ATTITUDE. Let have a look at the attitude.

SOME HAVE THE ATTITUDE OF THE RICH YOUNG RULER-1. Mark 10:18-22

- This ruler wanted to go to heaven and he lived an upright and moral life – he had a desire to follow Christ, and no doubt he thought he was ready from any standpoint
- It never entered his mind that his money, or how he viewed it, was a hindrance to him
- His wealth had blinded him.
- This rich young ruler thought was doing well in keeping the commands of God – BUT, there was something he was overlooking
- Jesus said go sell what you have! WHY? Jesus knew this man had the wrong attitude toward money.
- The young man turned and walked away. HOW SAD!
- He loved his money more than he loved the Lord.
- Beloved, if we have this kind of attitude we will lose our soul!

SOME HAVE THE ATTITUDE OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA - Acts 5:1-2

- The very fact that these two people lied about their giving shows beyond all doubt that they had the wrong attitude toward money.
- Every time a person leaves the impression that he is giving as God has prospered him and then refuses to give liberally, he is just as guilty as Ananias and Sapphira.
- Why should we think it is worse for them to lie about their giving than for us to lie about our giving?
- One may say, “I don’t lie about my giving, I just do not give liberally.”
- Let me ask you this question, “Which is worse, to lie to God or to rob God?” ... Malachi 3:8

SOME HAVE THE ATTITUDE OF BARNABAS - Acts 4:36-37

- It is not difficult to understand why Barnabas was called a good man (Acts 11:24). This is the kind of man we should strive to imitate.
- Think of all the good that would be done if all people in the church were free-hearted, liberal givers and good like Barnabas.
- The contrast is striking between Barnabas and the rich young ruler, Judas, and Ananias and Sapphira.
- Why did Barnabas do this good deed? He had a wonderful attitude of giving.
- Do you suppose Barnabas ever got mad when a sermon was preached on giving?
- I am glad that the Bible tells us of men like Barnabas – reading about Barnabas should give us a much stronger desire to give generously.
- If you do not enjoy hearing lessons on giving, then your heart is out of tune with Christ

SOME HAVE THE ATTITUDE OF THE POOR WIDOW. - Mark 12:41-44

- Suppose that on each Lord's day you were to walk up before the congregation and put your offering on the table where all could see it.
- Some would say, "I would be embarrassed."
- You would not be if you gave liberally and sacrificially as the poor widow
- If we would all give liberally as God has prospered us, our contribution would increase and we would be adding good works instead of deleting them.
- One preacher said, "When I look at the well-dressed congregation, I ask, where are the poor? When I look at the Tithe/offering basket, I ask where are the rich?"
- Are we giving sacrificially?
- Finally, in giving it should be to the Lord...

SOME HAVE THE ATTITUDE OF DAVID - 2 Samuel 24:24

- I wish we could have this type of attitude.
- Notice Malachi's rebuke ... Malachi 1:12-14
- We ought not be giving God our "left-overs"
- Notice the words of Paul ... 2 Corinthians 2:8
- The church exists for three primary reasons: