FAILURE TO GIVE PROPERLY

Intro: God commanded us to give. He also instructed as to the manner of our giving. We are to give cheerfully, bountifully and as God has prospered us. (2 Cor. 9:6-7 “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”; 1 Cor. 16:2 “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”) What are some of the results of failing to give as God instructs.

I. DEPRIVES THE GIVER THE JOY OF GIVING.

A. There is joy in giving.
   1. Acts 20:35 “I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
   2. 2 Cor. 8:1-2, 4 “Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.... 4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.”

B. True joy is only found in Christ and giving ourselves to Him.
   1. Phi. 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”
   2. When we give ourselves to Christ, we will give from our pocketbooks as well; 2 Cor. 8:5 “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.”

C. Thus, Paul refers to giving as grace.
   1. 2 Cor. 8:7 “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.”
   2. Grace is something God gives to man for man’s good and benefit.

II. DEPRIVES GOD’S CAUSE.

A. God only authorized one way for the Lord’s church to obtain money.
   1. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
   2. The freewill offering collected upon the first day of each week.
   3. There is no other way, with God’s approval that the church can get money.
      a. Bingo parties.
      b. Cake sales.
      c. Garage sales.

B. The Lord’s work takes money.
   1. Thus, when you fail to give as God has prospered you, then the work of the church will suffer.
   2. Missionaries cannot go into the field because they are in need of money; others suffer hardship while others must return home.
3. Those who are in need (without food, shelter, clothing) remain in need for lack of money.

III. FAILURE TO LAY UP FOR ONESELF TREASURES IN HEAVEN.

A. We are citizens of an heavenly kingdom.
   1. This earth is not our home.
      a. 1 Pet. 2:11 “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”
      b. Heb. 11:13 “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”
   2. Our home is in heaven.
      a. Phi. 3:20 “For our conversation [citizenship — ASV] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:”
      b. Phi. 1:27 “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;” (Conversation means “to behave as a citizen”).

B. Thus, we must lay our treasures up in heaven.
   1. Mat. 6:19-21 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 19 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”
   2. Notice what Jesus said to the rich young ruler; Mat. 19:21 “Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.”

C. When we fail to lay up treasures in heaven it shows our covetousness.
   1. Mat. 6:21 “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”
   2. Luke 12:15 “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”
   3. Eph. 5:3 “But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;”
   4. Col. 3:5 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:”

Conclusion: Have you given as God instructs. To do so you must first give yourself to God. You must become a Christian and live the Christian life to give yourself to God.