Lay By Him In Store

Intro: 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.” Giving is one of the positive duties and privileges of the Christian life. If you do not enjoy or relish this study then you should take inventory of your spiritual life and especially is this lesson to you.

1. The Lord looks with interest and concern upon this act of worship which has been demanded in every dispensation of time.
2. In fact the Lord gave more teaching concerning this subject than any other.
3. Our text answers many questions we might ask concerning giving.

I. A CONSIDERATION OF OUR TEXT.

A. A commandment to all.
1. 1 Cor. 1:2 “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:”
2. 1 Cor. 4:17 “For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.”
3. 1 Cor. 7:17 “But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.”

B. Periodic—When:
1. “Upon the first day of the week.”
2. The Greek implies “every” week.

C. Personal—Who:
1. “Let every one of you.”
2. No one is excluded from giving.

D. Provident—What:
1. “Lay by him in store.”
2. This is giving money into a common treasury for the work of the church.

E. Proportionate—How much:
1. “As God hath prospered him.”
2. 2 Cor. 8:12 “For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.”
3. 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.”
   a. Notice the next verse and the sufficiency God supplies.
   b. 2 Cor. 9:8 “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.”
   a. Rom. 15:4 “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”
   b. Gen. 14: (Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek)
   c. Gen. 28: (Jacob promised to give a tithe of all God gave him after the vision of the ladder to heaven)
   d. Lev. 27: (A law given to the Jews)
   e. Mal. 3:8 “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.”
f. cf. Heb. 7:

F. Preventive—Why:
1. “That there be no gatherings when I come.”
2. To meet the needs of the church that arise.

II. A FAILURE TO GIVE DENOTES CERTAIN THINGS.
A. In some instances a lack of teaching.
1. Our actions are based upon what we have been taught.
2. Thus, the religion of our Lord is a teaching religion.
   a. Mat. 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”
   b. John 6:45 “It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”
   c. 1 Cor. 1:21 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
3. What have we been taught concerning giving?
   a. By parents? ($10. to go to the movies; $1. to give to the Lord).
   b. By preachers?
   c. By others? (when we see others give grudgingly, or not at all, etc.).

B. A spirit of rebellion.
1. Some have been properly taught but they have closed their eyes and ears.
2. Preacher stands up to preach and it is said, “Oh, here we go again.” “I don’t agree with him so I won’t listen.”
3. Mat. 13:15 “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”
4. 1 Sam. 15:23 “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”

C. That one is religiously lopsided.
1. They believe one must be penitent, baptized, partakers of the Lord’s Supper, etc.
   a. Why? The Bible teaches it.
   b. They often can even quote the scriptures.
2. Yet, they do not accept the same word of God that teaches liberal giving.

D. A lack of faith.
1. Jam. 2:18 “Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”
   a. We show our faith by our works rather than by mere profession.
   b. This is true concerning our giving as well.
2. We can sing enthusiastically songs of faith, but they are empty and vain if we do not give properly.
3. Mat. 6:24-33 (Why don’t we give more? We are fearful we won’t have enough!)
4. Psa. 37:25 “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”

E. A lack of interest in the local church and its mission or work.
1. Its mission, or work
   a. It is the saving of souls.
   b. It is done in three ways.
   c. It takes money to carry on that work.
2. A failure to give properly shows a lack of love for lost souls, benevolent work, and edification.

F. A love of money or covetousness.
   1. 1 Tim. 6:10 “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”
   2. Col. 3:5 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:”
   3. 1 Cor. 6:10 “Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”
   4. Would ye be willing for the Lord to multiply your giving by ten?

Conclusion: It further indicates a poor investment. Roger Babson said, “One dollar spent for a necktie last a few months; one dollar spent in the service to God last for eternity.” Tombstone: “What I saved I lost; what I spent I used; what I gave I have.”