

The Practical Matters – Part 2

1 Corinthians 16; Coast Community Church; Earl Miles; 4-14-2024

¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. ² On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come. ³ When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem; ⁴ and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me. – 1 Corinthians 16:1-3

We naturally think that money is the key to our help and happiness. But money is just a tool for these things when God is our true Help and Happiness. Money is a means, not an end. We ‘serve’ whoever or whatever we ultimately look to for our help and happiness. And we should ‘serve’ God not money.

*“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.
– Matthew 6:24*

Giving is a matter of proportion not percentage. (1 Corinthians 16:1-3)

- Saints will have needs while being loved by God.
- Saints will have the opportunity to meet the needs of others.
- All of us should be givers no matter how much we need to receive.
- It is good to save for good purposes.
- We are to give according to how God has prospered us.
- Money matters in the church should be handled carefully.
- Giving to sinners in a fallen world is always a gift of grace.

The Practical Matter of Money

Everything we have is from God and belongs to God. (1 Chronicles 29:10-19; James 1:17; Deuteronomy 8:17-18)

Money is a good thing to be enjoyed and it is not wrong to have more than we need. (1 Timothy 6:17-19; Proverbs 10:22; 22:2, 4)

Giving is to be voluntary and cheerful and in proportion to God’s blessing. (2 Corinthians 8:12-15; 9:5-11)

Money is a test and a temptation when we have it and when we don’t. (Proverbs 30:7-9; 1 Timothy 6:17, 6-10; Luke 16:1-15; Ecclesiastes 5:10; 10:19; Luke 18:18-26)

God has promised to meet our needs as His children. (Matthew 7:7-11; 6:24-34; Philippians 4:19; Hebrews 13:5-6)

Being in need is an opportunity to trust God for grace and provision. (Philippians 4:10-14; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 6:4-5; 11:27; Luke 21:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

Don't try to 'need-proof' your financial situation. (Matthew 6:19-24; Proverbs 18:11; Luke 12:13-34; Ecclesiastes 5:13; James 5:1-6)

Save as you can to provide for future needs. (Proverbs 6:6-11; 21:5, 20; Genesis 41:34-36)

God wants us to make and use money:

- To provide for ourselves.** (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12)
- To provide for our families.** (1 Timothy 5:8; Ephesians 5:28-31; 2 Corinthians 12:14; Proverbs 13:22)
- To provide for our parents.** (1 Timothy 5:3-4; Matthew 15:4-6)
- To provide for those in need.** (Ephesians 4:28; Proverbs 14:31; 28:8; 2 Corinthians 8:12-15)
- To provide for the local church.** (Galatians 6:6-8; Matthew 10:10; Luke 10:7; 1 Corinthians 9:6-14; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; Acts 4:32-37)
- To provide for missions.** (3 John 1:5-8; 1 Corinthians 16:6, 11; 2 Corinthians 11:9; Philippians 4:15-18; Titus 3:13-14)
- To do good to others.** (Galatians 6:9-10; Luke 6:31-35, 38; Proverbs 25:21; 28:27; Luke 10:29-37; Titus 3:13-14)
- To provide for good government.** (Romans 13:6-8; Matthew 22:15-22)
- To pursue our holiness and happiness.** (2 Corinthians 9:5-12; Luke 12:31-34; Matthew 6:19-24; Luke 14:13-14; Matthew 6:2-4; Proverbs 14:21; 19:17; 22:9; Luke 6:38; Acts 20:33-35; Luke 16:1-15)
- To glorify God in Christ who is the Ultimate Giver.** (Matthew 5:43-48; 7:7-11; 2 Corinthians 8:7-9; 9:10-15)

Life Questions:

- How do you need to look at money differently?
- How do you need to handle money differently?
- Are you putting your hope in God for your help and happiness?
- Are you resting in Jesus and His finished work for the forgiveness of your sins?
- Are you pursuing love in obedience to God?