

Why Givers Are So Blessed, Part 2 - Philippians 4:17-18 – April 14th, 2019

- Today's teaching is part two of a series about those who give to God's work, and why it is that they are so blessed by the Lord.
- The reason we're only tackling two more verses today is because they are packed full of powerful truth related to ones giving.
- Specifically, two truths that speak to what happens when God's people give, and perhaps more importantly, why it happens.

1. Givers are rewarded (Verse 17)

17 Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account.

- I have to say that this is perhaps one of the most important, if not the most important reason the God blesses those who give.
- What Paul is saying here is that we all have heavenly accounts, as it were, and we deposit into those accounts when we give.
- To me, this is the why behind the what in the sense that it explains why those who give to the Lord can never out give the Lord.

Matthew 6:19–24 - 19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

2. Givers are pleasing to God (Verse 18)

18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

- This is interesting for a number of reasons, not the least of which is Paul describes gifts as fragrant, acceptable and pleasing.
- In other words, when we give, it's a sweet smelling fragrance before God, and an acceptable sacrifice that's pleasing to God.
- The question becomes one of why our giving is so fragrant and pleasing to God, which Paul answers here in a word; sacrifice.

1 Chronicles 21:18–24 - 18 Therefore, the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. 19 So David went up at the word of Gad, which he had spoken in the name of the LORD. 20 Now Ornan turned and saw the angel; and his four sons who were with him hid themselves, but Ornan continued threshing wheat. 21 So David came to Ornan, and Ornan looked and saw David. And he went out from the threshing floor, and bowed before David with his face to the ground. 22 Then David said to Ornan, "Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar on it to the LORD. You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people." 23 But Ornan said to David, "Take it to yourself, and let my lord the king do what is good in his eyes. Look, I also give you the oxen for burnt offerings, the threshing implements for wood, and the wheat for the grain offering; I give it all." 24 Then King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing."

- You'll forgive me for the bluntness with which I say this, but the problem is many Christians are more like tippers, than tithers.
- It reminds me of the humorous conversation between a \$1 bill and a \$100 bill about some of the places they both get to go.
- The \$100 bill tells the \$1 bill he gets to go to dinner and the movies. The \$1 bill said that the only place it ever goes is to church.

- I'll bring it to a close by posing a two-fold question. First, for those who don't give, what's your greatest concern in not doing so?
- Second, for those who do give, would you agree that the only regret you have is there are times when you cannot give more?
- Perhaps the challenge to both those who give and those who don't is that of trying the Lord and seeing what He will do for you.

Malachi 3:8–12 - 8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. 11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts; 12 And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the LORD of hosts.