

Assurance of Salvation  
Part 63

Self-Denial

&  
> and our use of MONEY! <  
(Part 3)

"Self-Denial"

and our use of  
**\$ Money \$**

(Part 3)



All people have a "#1" value:

- That value will be either: **God** or **Self**
- It will influence all we do, including our use of money.

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- **Self**-denial = God comes *first*.
- **God**-denial = Self comes *first*.

– EACH of these will affect the way we treat our **NEIGHBOR**.



Last week's considerations

1

Using money for yourself.

- It can be a legitimate expression of love for God and neighbor.
- Love for God/neighbor will influence how you use it for yourself.

Last week's considerations

2

Giving money to a "church organization."

- If you are a follower of Jesus, you need to worship with other Christians.
  - This may occur in a "church building" or at some other location.
  - In hostile countries, this may be in a house, or even deep in a forest.

Giving money to a "church organization." (CONTINUED)

2

[Continued]

- Whatever your situation, you need to be involved in a way that demonstrates love for God and people.
  - Money is one of the ways you can be involved.
- If you love God and neighbor, you'll be willing to help.
  - Otherwise, how can the love of God be in you?



**THIS week ...**

**3** Considerations when GIVING.

- Our greater focus will be on the giving of money.
- But the principles would apply to non-monetary contributions as well.

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**Considerations when Giving**

**1 GETTING YOUR BRAIN IN GEAR!**

- The right thoughts, attitudes, etc.

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**First, what is your ATTITUDE toward having money?**

- For many people, money is bigger than the world.
- NOT for the follower of Jesus.

[WORLD]

**What is your ATTITUDE toward giving?**

"Not grudgingly, but cheerfully."

**Wrong!!**

I HAVE TO DO IT ... or God won't bless me!

**Right!!**

I WANT TO DO IT! God blesses me, and I want to be a blessing to others!

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion,\* for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Cor. 9:7 (NIV)

\* (No compulsion needed, if we follow Jesus. The desire is embedded in our hearts!)

**Your REASON for giving?**

God does bless those who give to him. (if it's done with the right motives, etc.)

But a follower of Jesus gives to God – **because he loves God**, not because he loves blessings.

**NOT THIS!** Here's a dime, God. You owe me a blessing!

[HALO, obviously indicates a "spiritual" church!]

**WHO are you bringing attention to?**

That church is known for its free handouts!

Hello!! Remember me? I'm JESUS!

**CHURCH:** "We're so alive and active."

**JESUS:** "I'm so outside and ignored."

## Your REAL values can be seen when your income changes.

### ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS!

- "I just got a pay increase!"

- Let's move up the "social ladder"!

**OR:** – Let's help provide Bibles for people in other countries!

- "They just cut my pay by 20%!"

- We will have to stop helping the missionaries.

**OR:** – We will reduce our spending on vacations and entertainment.

## Considerations when Giving

**2 THE NECESSARY "SURROUNDINGS"!**

## It's easy to be misguided in our efforts

Let's help the missionaries.

Do I get a tax deduction?

We'll send them our used tea bags. They've still got some flavor in them!

I donated \$10. Now God owes me a blessing!

I'm saving up for a stereo system. But here's a dime!

If you buy this widget for \$20, we will donate \$2 to missions!

I'd be ashamed to wear these old clothes! I'll send them to the missionaries!

**TO MINIMIZE THIS...**

## We need to "surround" our giving with love ...

I gave my money and possessions.

If I give all I possess to the poor ... but have not **love**, I gain nothing. Do everything in love.

1 Cor. 13:3; 16:14 (NIV)

## We also need to "surround" each other's efforts with prayer ...

I gave my money and possessions.

... we constantly **pray** for you, ... that by his power [God] may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.

2 Thes. 1:11 (NIV)

## Considerations when Giving

What should I do with it?

**3 RESPONSIBILITY & DISCERNMENT**

## Nearly every Scripture passage about giving money:

- **Focuses on "family."**
  - Sometimes nearby; sometimes further away.
  - Physical or spiritual family.
- **Involves accountability.**
  - Make sure the gift gets used in a way that honors God!

## What about "outsiders"?

- **"Outsiders" are not 100% excluded!**
  - But they are not the main focus.
- **There is still accountability.**
  - Make sure the gift gets used in a way that honors God!
  - Your money belongs to GOD. Do you want to honor God with it... or the devil?

## Many churches have a reputation for being foolish.

GOD's requirement:

**Be wise** in the way you act toward outsiders...  
Col. 4:5a (NIV)



This is GOD's money you're wasting!



## Many churches have a reputation for being gullible.

- God does NOT require you to believe every story you hear.

## There are times that giving "free handouts" to people is a sin!

For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule:

**"If a man will not work, he shall not eat."**

2 Thes. 3:10 (NIV)

★ **These people have a different need.** ★  
**That is where you need to focus.**

## "It's not my job to judge!"

"It's not my problem what he does with the money."

**Oh really???** God holds YOU responsible for what YOU do with God's money.

"Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces." – **said by JESUS!**

Matthew 7:6 (NIV)

**"I'll give them the benefit of the doubt."**  
... is more an *excuse* than a *legitimate response*.

I can't find a job!

How about doing volunteer work for food?

NO WAY! The church gives me food for free!

God holds us responsible for what *we choose* to do with our money ... **as well as for its effects on others.**

**DON'T make ASSUMPTIONS!**

*We like to assume* that all our "blind" donations are accomplishing something good.

*We like to assume* we won't be held accountable for what *we* have made possible.

Making assumptions does **NOT** guarantee that our giving will result in good.

Paid for by church goes!!!

**Nor does it remove our *guilt*, if our giving *encourages* people to sin.**

**DON'T make ASSUMPTIONS!**

- **Some people may have genuine needs.**
  - Though not always what they *think* they need.
- **Others have more money than many working people do. \***
  - Some "earn" more money by begging, than many people earn with a full-time job!

\* (This is based on observations made by a person who worked at a local bank.)

**"ACCOUNTABILITY" APPLIES TO ALL!**

- Family members
- Outsiders
- "Sinners"
- "Religious" people

**EVEN RELIGIOUS PEOPLE??**

**> YES!! <**

Even when it involves giving \$\$ to *leaders!*

Note the big mouth, gushing forth drivels.

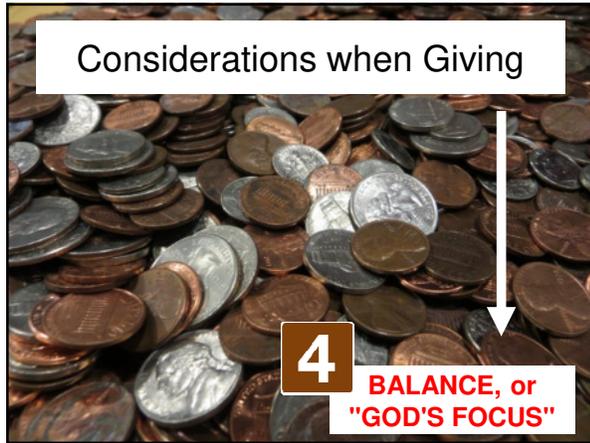
**God wants you to be rich. Give me all your money and God will bless you with *one hundred times as much!***

[Insert picture of millionaire preacher.]

**There are many *fake* "preachers" and "evangelists" out there.**

... men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

1 Tim. 6:5b (NIV)



## Considerations when Giving

**4** BALANCE, or "GOD'S FOCUS"

## Balance? God's focus?

- Many people put **MORE** effort into "saving" people *physically*, than in saving them for *eternity!*

**THIS IS A HORRIFIC EVIL!**

Don't you realize they are going to the lake of fire?

Are YOU guilty?

I'll keep them happy and distracted on the way!

## YOUR MISSION

Put to practice what you have learned... not only with money, but in every way!

Do this, and you will be *living* the "self-denial" that is a part of salvation!

Therefore, as we have opportunity, **let us do good** to all people, *especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

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