**R880\_Rumination for December 05, 2021**

The **T**heme: **Giving to God** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *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.* I Cor. 16:2

The **T**hots:

1. **The Period for Giving** - ***upon the first day of the Week***
2. It was on the Day of **R**emembrance of the Lord. Acts 20:7

*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread*,

 Acts 2:42

1. It was the Day for **R**everence of our Lord – as an act of **W**orship. Cf. Rom. 12:1

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

1. The **P**resentation of **S**elf – *present your bodies a living sacrifice*
2. The **P**resentation of **S**ervice – *which is your reasonable service.*

[The **P**resentation of **S**piritual Worship – …*which is your spiritual worship*. Rom. 12:1, NRSV]

1. The **P**resentation of **S**ubstance – *many…ministered unto Him of their substance.* Cf*.* Lk. 8:3
2. **The People to Give** *-****Let******every one of you***
3. The **C**ompulsion = ***let*** *every one*

No one is to be exempted. Everyone must give – little or much is up to one’s ability!See #D

1. The **C**ompany of **C**hristians in **C**orinth Addressed – *of you*
2. **C**ontrast God’s **C**omplaint of His people of the Old **C**ovenant: Mal. 3:8, 10
3. The **P**ilfering: *Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me.*
4. The **P**roblem – their Denial: *But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee?*
5. The **P**oint in Case: *In tithes and offerings…*
6. The **P**romise: *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house,*

*and* ***P****rove Me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven,*

*and* ***P****our you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

1. **The Putting aside of what is to be Given** - ***lay by him in store***
2. **P**urpose it – ***L****et every one of you* ***L****ay by him…*
3. **P**reserve it – ***L****ay by him in store* is Gk. *thēsaurizō*

*F*rom ***T****hesaurus =* to amass or reserve (literal or figurative): - lay up (treasure), (keep) in store, (heap)

 **T**reasure (together, up). Strong

1. **P**resent it *–* cf. *When they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother,*

*and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures,*

*they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.* Mt. 2:1

1. **The Proportion to Give** – ***as God hath prospered him***
2. Not a **P**ercentage ct. *the tithe in the O.T*. Lev. 27:32
3. *Concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod,*

*the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.*

1. *Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them,*

*When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe.* Num. 18:26

* Note: Paul never used the word "*tithe*" when he discussed giving, even though he gave more attention to giving than any other New Testament writer.
1. But in **P**roportion according to **P**urpose and **P**rosperity – *as God hath prospered him*
2. i.e. According to his *ability* or **P**rosperity: Cf. Acts 11:29

*Then the disciples, every ma*n *according to his ability*, *determined to send relief unto the brethren*

*which dwelt in Judaea:*

1. According as he has **P**urposed – II Cor. 9:7

*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give;*

1. **The Preparedness to Give** *–* ***that there be no gatherings when I come***
2. Giving is not to be made a Priori**ty** but a Responsibili**ty**. [See Reflections]
3. **G**iving is not to be **G**rudging but **G**lad and Cheerful – II Cor. 9:7
4. *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give;*

*not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

 *Savior, Thy dying love Thou gavest me.*

*Nor should I aught withhold, Dear Lord, from Thee.*

*In love my soul would bow, My heart fulfill its vow,*

 *Some offering bring Thee now, Something for Thee.* Sylvanus D. Phelps

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 880**

1. “***that there be no gatherings when I come”.*** (I Cor. 16:2b)

Was it Paul’s intention that when he finally met up with the believers in Corinth, they should be ready with the collection and not make a big issue of it by appealing for money when he was present?

[Note that *gatherings* is the same Gr. word as “*collection*” in 16:1 (Gk. *logeia,* from *logo)) = a contribution:- collection, gathering.* Strong.]

In great contrast, we witness what is happening in many churches today. We hear appeals for money, gifts, etc. by church leaders being made into a very big issue occupying the better part of a congregational gathering or service, as appeal after appeal is made in different forms for those present to give.

Note also that the gifts were to be handled by responsible brethren commended by the church itself. Paul himself would not even handle it.

*And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem. And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.* (I Cor. 16:3, 4)

These selected trustworthy messengers were to accompany the gifts to their proper destination. However, if it needs be, and Paul was needed to accompany them to see that the gifts would arrive safely, he was prepared to do so, but he himself would not handle the money. Everything was done transparently and in full integrity.

Is this a contrast to how members’ gifts are collected, accounted for and delivered to their designated recipients in churches today? How is accountability for the safe delivery of these gifts done to those who give? What necessary steps are taken to ensure the proper use of these gifts as intended for their original purpose and intention? **REFLECT.**

1. Though Paul refers to Christian giving on more numerous occasions than any New Testament writer, he never referred to such giving as “tithing”. Giving to him was a fellowship, a partnership, a communication between the giver and him; a spiritual act of worship unto God. (Rom.12:1)

Phil. 1:5 - *For your* ***fellowship*** *in the gospel from the first day until now;*

Phil. 4:14-17 – *Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did* ***communicate*** *with my affliction. Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church* ***communicated*** *with me as concerning* ***giving*** *and* ***receiving****, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire* ***a gift:*** *but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.*

II Cor. 8:7 – *see that ye abound in this* ***grace***[giving] *also.*

Are Christians required to tithe or give a tenth of their income as required in the Old Testament law? Why not? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *If* ***G****iving by Law requires a Tenth of what one has;*

 ***G****iving by* ***G****race**offers more than what the* ***L****aw demands.*

*because it is based on* ***L****ove.*