

It Is More Blessed to Give than to Receive
By Trey Sullins

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1). The job and duty of every Christian is to give up the pleasures and distractions of life and choose to live a life for the spiritual things (Colossians 3:2). One great example of this in the Christian’s life is the command to give. Giving, if done properly, perfectly fits the description of presenting yourself a living sacrifice because you are willingly forfeiting your own possession for God. With these things in mind it is important that Christians understand their command to give to the Lord.

Giving is a command of God. Early in the ministry of Jesus, He began to lay the foundation for what would become the giving of the church. In Mark 12:41-44 Jesus witnessed a widow giving as best as she could out of her poverty. He then declared that her sacrifice was more than all who had given to the treasury. Again, in Luke 6:38 Jesus says “Give, and it will be given to you.” These teachings were a continuation of the practices that were to be done under the Law of Moses as well. For the Christian 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 is where Paul gives the simple command to the brethren at Corinth, “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.” To be proper in God’s eyes, Christians must give proportionally to the way we prosper. If we are financially doing well, but our giving to God does not reflect that then there is a problem. If God gave His Son for us, then we ought to be giving as much as we can so that our giving is one of our highest monthly outputs. The Bible sets a clear command and precedent that Christians must give.

Giving benefits the giver. From a worldly perspective the idea of being a living sacrifice is not a good idea because the worldly mindset is that you should focus on yourself almost exclusively. However, in the Bible we find the exact opposite of this is taught. When we give back to God, we are fulfilling the commands of God and reaping other benefits as well. After the poor widow in Mark 12 gives, she now had less money, but she had the approval of the Son of God which is certainly more important. Giving also helps us keep our focus on God. Have you ever looked at your bank account and felt a desire to see your balance increase? We all have this tendency from time to time. On the surface this is not a dangerous thought, but left unchecked our entire focus can become about money! When we give, we are actively working against that worldly focus of amassing wealth for ourselves. Giving also is a great way to show our gratitude to God. What is often our reaction after we receive a gift from someone around Christmas? We think “I need to give them something too!” God Almighty has given us the greatest gifts we could ever imagine (Ephesians 1:3), the least we could do is give back to Him with our best.

Giving brings us the reward from God. In Galatians 6:8 the Bible says, “For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” When we give back to God, we are setting ourselves up to reap the rewards of God. When discussing the manner in which one should give to others Jesus said, “But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.” While in verse two the hypocrite’s reward is only to be seen by men, the good giver’s

reward in verse four is to be blessed by God the Father. We must strive for that reward with proper and godly giving.

Life comes and goes and so too does money but there is one thing that should never change in our lives and that is our godly giving. Giving is a command, it benefits us, and along with a life of righteousness it brings us the ultimate reward of heaven someday. Let us always make sure our giving is according to the manner Paul described in 2 Corinthians 8:5: “by the will of God.”