

Proper Attitudes for Proper Giving

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Introduction:

- A. Tell the story of the man who wanted his billfold baptized. He had been covetous and said it needed baptizing as well.
 - B. The attitude of the rich young ruler toward his riches kept him out of heaven. - Mark 10:17-22
 - C. Our attitudes toward money can save or damn us. - 2 Corinthians 9:7
 - D. What attitudes should govern our contribution to the church?
 - I. Improper attitudes lead to "sparing" giving. (How can we harvest bountifully if we sow sparingly?) - 2 Corinthians 9:5-7
 - A. covetousness: "a gift exacted by importunity and conferred with grudging, a hardwrung gift"(Analytical Greek Lexicon; e.g., Christmas gift for boss)
 - B. grudgingly: from sorrow, from grief; e.g., man who "grudgingly" buys wife an anniversary present
 - C. of necessity: under compulsion, from distress or pain; Do we give to keep from going to hell or to save the lost?
 - II. Proper attitudes lead to liberal giving.
 - A. joy- 2 Corinthians 8:1-2
 - 1. It is a joy to receive. - 1 Timothy 6:17; e.g., small child at Christmas
 - 2. It is a greater joy to give. - Acts 20:35; e.g., parents of that child
 - B. willingness - 2 Corinthians 8:3,10-12; 9:1-2; cf. Exodus 35:4-9; 36:5-7
 - C. dedication to God- 2 Corinthians 8:5; Galatians 2:20; e.g., Daddy Sprott finding \$5 on way to church; He was sad because, in the midst of raising 10 children on the ranch during the Depression, he had no money to give. He thought finding the money was providential and put it in the collection. He wanted to help the preacher who had driven 80 miles from San Antonio to preach.
 - D. love- 2 Corinthians 8:8,24; How will a man who loves his family spend his hard-earned cash?
 - E. bountifulness: to receive blessings, sincere generosity - 2 Corinthians 9:5-6
 - 1. God blessed Israel when they gave. - Proverbs 3:9-10
 - 2. He will bless us when we give properly. - 2 Corinthians 9:8 - 11
 - 3. Do we believe him?- Numbers 23:19
 - F. purpose - 2 Corinthians 9:7
 - G. cheerfulness - 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Conclusion:
- A. The Lord is more interested in how we give than in how much we give. - Mark 12:41-44
 - B. But if we give with the right attitudes, we will give liberally. - 2 Corinthians 8:1-2
 - C. **First give yourself to the Lord.** - 2 Corinthians 8:5