

Proverbs on Giving

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: Most of you would not disagree with the idea of **thanking God** for all his provisions for you by tithing— **returning a portion of what he has given to you.** But God does not only require tithing to show thankfulness. He also requires that you show your thankfulness by **giving to others a portion of what he has given to you.**

So on this Thanksgiving Day we will focus on what God taught in the Proverbs concerning giving.

Our headings are:

The Reason for Giving

The Method of Giving

The Results of Giving

Our goals are: That you will eagerly and generously give to others, understanding that not only did God give you money, but that God gave you eternal salvation— something worth more than the most precious rubies in the world.

The Reason of Giving

1. There is no question that God has commanded you to give – by verbal commands and exemplary commands!

Consider a command to give by example. The perfect woman gives!

Proverbs 31:20 She extends her hand to the poor, **Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.**

2. When you give you show you understand that everything you have and own is a gift of God.

And sharing a portion of what God has given to you is a way of showing thankfulness to God.

Proverbs 14:31 He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, **But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.**

3. Specifically, when you give you show you are thankful for God's salvation.

Proverbs 29:7 The **righteous considers the cause of the poor...**

Proverbs 21:26 He covets greedily all day long, **But the righteous gives and does not spare.**

How are you righteous? You are only righteous when Christ's righteousness (by his obedience and suffering) is counted as yours! This is why you give! What greater gift could a man receive?

4. You give because some of God's children are needy – your brothers and sisters – and you

want to help them!

Proverbs 22:2 The rich and the poor have this in common, **The LORD is the maker of them all.**

You don't give to people who can give back to you. There is one religion that teaches that in order to show thanksgiving to God you must give 2.5% to the poor yearly. But what many of the followers do is to give to their relatives and their relatives give back to them. So they meet the letter of the law and are pleased with themselves! But the intention of the law was to help the poor. Give to the true poor!

The Method of Giving

1. You have to look for opportunity to give; don't pretend not to see the needy.

Proverbs 28:27 He who gives to the poor will not lack, But he who hides his eyes will have many curses.

Some people live in their aloof positions so they don't know what is happening in their neighborhood or around the world. This limits their ability to help. But you need to invest time! It is too easy to write a cheque. You need to do research on whether World Vision spends money on abortions. Find out how much money goes to administration! Make sure they are doing truly good work and not funding the killing of babies! This is part of true thanksgiving!

2. Do not give to lazy people.

Some are poor because they are lazy. They don't feel the compulsion to work. They would rather have others pay their bills. One Christian man told me that his mother-in-law had an obligation to pay for his medicines because he was fat and couldn't work and she had money. **That is poverty from laziness.** He was destroyer of his family. He died about 2 years ago, leaving his family in debt.

Proverbs 18:9 **He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.**

Some people simply lack ambition and they should starve. Don't waste God's gifts on them.

3. Don't assume people are lazy.

The one who is poor might be there by Divine appointment – so he could empathize with the poor and have access to the poor. Some may be sick in way you can't see.

Proverbs 19:1 **Better is the poor who walks in his integrity** Than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

Wasn't the Lord Jesus born into a poor family? What about all the **poor Christians in Africa, India, and China**...do all they lack faith?

4. Giving is not limited to giving to Christians.

In a general way you can say that all men are God's children.

Proverbs 14:31 **He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker,** But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.

There is no sign of God limiting giving to his children alone. Yes, you start with God's people (everyone starts with charity at home) but don't limit it. The tsunami victims in Indonesia need help just as the hurricane victims in North Carolina need help.

5. Give more than money!

Money is relatively easy to give. Getting your hands down and dirty is much more difficult. Isn't that true? It is easy to give \$4.50 to Scott's Mission downtown Toronto for a Thanksgiving meal for the homeless, but how many would go and help feed the homeless, especially on Thanksgiving Day?

You can plead the cause of the poor! Speak up for generous pay.

Proverbs 31:9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, And **plead the cause of the poor and needy.**

You can help provide for proper conditions in society (for the state) so people can develop their own business.

You can give advice – personal, marriage, financial. Many need to overcome obstacles to provide for themselves. You don't have to be paid for everything!

You can provide worker's training. This way you teach a man to fish instead of feeding him every day.

You can support the businesses of the poor – even if it costs you a little more.

So don't think the solution is to throw money at the poor; this surely hasn't helped Africa. This is the major error in dealing with social issues in Western society today. "Fair share" is often code for taking away from the rich and giving to the poor. That is wrong. That has not helped.

6. Give to the poor without expecting something back.

You have already received enough! Remember, this is about thankfulness to God for all he has already given to you.

The Results of Giving

1. You never lose when you give out of thankfulness; rather, you become richer. God said so.

Proverbs 11:24 There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is

one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty. **25 The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.**

Proverbs 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, **And He will pay back** what he has given.

Proverbs 22:9 **He who has a generous eye will be blessed**, For he gives of his bread to the poor.

And these are not merely earthly or material blessings. These are spiritual blessings – the greater blessings.

Keep in mind that these are not “purposes” for giving; **these are the results of giving.**

2. When you give you earn the praise of men.

Proverbs 18:16 A man’s gift makes room for him, And brings him before great men.

Proverbs 19:6 Many entreat the favor of the nobility, And every man is a friend to one who gives gifts.

And men will ultimately praise God for you!

Keep in mind that these are not “purposes” for giving; **these are the results of giving.**

3. What are the results of not giving – and therefore not show you are thankful for your supper and your salvation?

Proverbs 21:13 Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor **Will also cry himself and not be heard.**

Because you show yourself as deaf to the cries of the needy, God will turn a deaf ear to you as well.

Proverbs 22:16 He who oppresses the poor to increase his riches, And he who gives to the rich, will surely come to poverty. 22 Do not rob the poor because he is poor, Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; 23 **For the LORD will plead their cause**, And plunder the soul of those who plunder them.

And then God will hear the pleas of the needy!

Conclusion:

You give because you are thankful for your supper and your salvation in Jesus Christ. You give your tithes to God and you give your goods or whatever the need is to your neighbor. What are the

results of giving? You cause men to praise God. You are rewarded by God in this life and the next.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Remind yourself every day when you overcome sin that Jesus saved you with his precious blood. Remind yourself every day when you sit at the supper table that everything you have is because of Jesus.

2. Respond by worship, which includes giving, and generously to help your neighbor.

3. Your goal is not what you get back but how the person you helped might one day praise God.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, the greatest thing you need is salvation. God offers it for free. I can tell you how to get it. Ask me if you want it. Without God's salvation, you might have all the food and drink in this world, but it will all come to nothing in the end. Hell is the only end of those who don't have salvation.