

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Rodney Ellis

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Randy Ellis Jack Calvert
Pete Rowland Preston Ellis

Prayers

Bill Brittenham Dee Minter

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Rodney Ellis

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Preston Ellis Randy Ellis

Prayers

Mark Davis Bill Rinehart

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Dave Massey

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Prayers

Rodney Ellis Melvin Potts

Invitation

Bryan Garlock

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Dave Massey

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:35-30

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16;
1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

Think On These Things

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Issue 5

How Is Our Giving?

Bryan Garlock

The purpose of the weekly contribution is to support the work of the local church. Whether that work falls under the realm of evangelism or supporting needy saints, we can be sure that there will always be work to do. Consequently, the local work that could be accomplished is determined by the free-will offerings of the members. That raises the question, "How is our giving?"

This is an important question, one that sheds light on many factors. For example, when we fill our lives with possessions and reap the bills thereof, our obligation to the local work is severely hindered. Therefore, those who are fixated with materialism will give minimally or not at all. Obviously, this person must repent of covetousness, among other ungodly qualities.

Additionally, those who begrudgingly write a check each week will not give at their fullest potential. Still, some may not fully appreciate the ultimate example of giving – that is, Jesus' life for our sins, while others do not appreciate the amount of work that can be accomplished by free-will offerings.

There may be other factors, but what drives our giving?

Please take the time to read 2 Corinthians chapters eight and nine now. In these two chapters, Paul reminds the Corinthian brethren to maintain their agreement to support the needy saints in Jerusalem. Upon meditating on these inspired words, one cannot avoid the glaring theme throughout the text – the main motivation behind their giving – God's grace (8.1, 6-7, 9, 19, 9.8, 14-15).

Additionally, many principles are set forth that ought to guide our giving – all based on God's grace. For example, despite persecution and poverty, their giving overflowed (8.2-3). Why? One reason was that as being citizens of heaven, their money was *worthless* to them. When this world does not matter to us, the Lord's work *thrives* – this is what it means to give ourselves to the Lord first and then to our brethren (8.4-5; cf. Matt. 6.33).

Furthermore, our mind must be made up that the Lord's work trumps any desire

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Willie Margaret Mobley, Bob Buls, Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, Francine Davis** and **Mary Alice Turner**. Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

Mary Alice Turner remains in Health South Rehab.

Bob Buls has had a rough week. He had dental surgery and then fell again. Please remember **Bob** and **Pat** in all your prayers.

Pete Rowland had his second cataract surgery this week.

Both of the **Mobleys** are down. **Wendell** has been having more breathing problems for a couple of weeks and now **Donna** has the flu. Please pray for their recovery.

Joey Avance continues to have more tests in an effort to diagnose some of his problems. Pray for him and the doctors.

Maxine Burnham continues at home. She says she just thinks she is wearing out. Please pray for her comfort and strength. Her attitude is a great example for us all.

PLAN NOW!

Our Annual Singing: Friday, April 6th
Gospel Meeting: April 8th-10th with **Dee** and **Russ Bowman**.

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we have on this earth. When we decide that the success of the local church is more important than a television in every room, top-of-the-line houses and cars, making sure that our kids are in every afterschool activity known to man, purchases of meaningless things, etc. we will see a shift in our giving. Surely none will argue, "But I've worked hard for my money and I deserve whatever I desire." Let it be known that no argument against Paul's teachings will be entertained here. In fact, Paul says that our giving demonstrates our love for God and others (8.8, 24) and our thankfulness for all that God has done for us (9.12, 15). Therefore, we must have a willing mind that is ready to give as we are able (8.12-14).

Finally, there are many wonderful blessings attached to our giving. While this must not be our sole motivation, it makes the efforts worthwhile. Paul taught, "...whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." (9.6-11)

Do we believe this? If our giving is not proportionate to our beliefs, who are we deceiving? We must give in faith, confident that God will bless us in our giving. The same God who promised us that baptism forgives our sins is the same God who promised to bless us in our giving. Again, we ask, "Do we believe this?"

Paul wrote, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." (2 Cor. 8.9). Jesus left the riches of heaven to become a lowly servant of all. Does this act of grace impress us to give as we have the ability and the opportunity (8.13-14)? If not, we must lovingly ask: "Why are we even a disciple of Jesus?" BG

The Shots You Don't Take

Aaron Kemple

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take"
- Wayne Gretzky

Take some time today to meditate upon this quote from the legendary Hall of Fame hockey player. It is profound and very true.

Maybe you feel stuck in a rut. Maybe you feel trapped in your career. Are you yearning to do something else, and wonder what's out there? But then the fears, doubts and "what if's" come into play and you quickly douse out the flame.

Look at the Henry Ford's and Thomas Edison's of the world. They repeatedly tried and failed. They kept trying, recalculating and pushing. Look at what happened.

Meditate upon the following passage from the wisest man to ever walk the earth, King Solomon.

"He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. As you do not know what is the way of wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes everything. In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good."
Ecclesiastes 11:4-6

- If you are waiting for perfect conditions, Solomon said, you will never be a successful farmer. The same applies to every endeavor of life. Perfect conditions exist only in heaven.

- If you are waiting for confirmation that what you are setting out to do is going to be 100% successful, then you will never get started. Solomon said, you "do not know." But this "not knowing" can be paralyzing to many of us. Paralyzing.

I'm not encouraging you to step out without seeking God's counsel and the advice of wise counselors. What I am encouraging you today to do is to remember that God in Scripture encourages us to do the very thing Wayne Gretzky advised.

Take a shot!