

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Jack Calvert

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Rodney Ellis Bill Brittenham
Joseph Barry Kingsley Cummings

Prayers

Mike Davis W.H. McFerrin

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Jack Calvert

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Rodney Ellis Bill Brittenham

Prayers

Preston Ellis Cole Meador

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Cole Meador

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Prayers

Rodney Ellis Sonny Monaghan

Invitation

Bryon 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.

WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM

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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Determining Doctrine

Bryan Garlock

To learn what the Bible says about a subject we must consider the totality of the Bible's teaching by examining every passage on that subject. For this study, it would do the reader well to engage themselves in a study on financial giving by consulting an exhaustive concordance of the Bible located in book form or online for free. This writer recommends the Strong's concordance. Search for the words "giving," "contribution," "tithing," "tithes," "collection," "fellowship," and the like.

Now that we have read God's instructions on giving, let us determine doctrine (teachings).

Paul wrote, "Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come." (1 Cor. 16.1-2)

This one passage teaches us many things about our weekly giving. First, while Paul introduced a new subject in his letter (1 Cor. 16.1), they were familiar with the matter, as this was something they had volunteered to do (2 Cor. 8.10).

Secondly, this collection was for all those and only those – specifically and contextually – who were needy saints. Though non-saints would obviously be in need also, these funds were not to be distributed to any of them, but only to the saints in Jerusalem. Nowhere does the Bible allow the local church to support those who are not its members/saints, though individuals are expected to do so (Eph. 4.28; 1 Tim. 6.18-19; James 1.27, etc.). However, even as individuals, we are to meet the needs of the saints first, as this blessing from God is one way He provides for His children (Matt. 6.25-34; 1 Tim. 5.16, etc.). Paul concluded, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to

FAMILY TALK

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

Kyle McWhorter spent a few days in the hospital with a GI infection. He is home now.

Nancy Rowe, Ann Thomas' helper, has been in the hospital. She is home now.

The stomach bug has been making the rounds.

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everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Gal. 6.10)

Regarding this collection, Paul issued the same command to the brethren in Corinth that he had previously given to the churches in Galatia. Each saint was to "put something aside and store it up" on a regular weekly basis "as he may prosper." Since one is only able to give as he has prospered, we see God's wisdom at play since the command for one to contribute that which he does not have would be a heavy burden.

That this is to be done "on the first day of every week (Sunday)" indicates it is not something to be done at home but is to be done when they assemble for the breaking of bread (Acts 20.7). If they did this at home (stored it under the bed or in a flour

jar), they would still have to gather it all together when he arrived (1 Cor. 16.2b-4). Plus, whatever they had at home would still be at their disposal (Acts 5.4). Oversight of the funds would not be transferred to the church until it was brought to the church – at which point, the funds would then be under the oversight of the elders (cf. Acts 11.27-30). This is the whole point of Paul's continued emphasis; that is, if the individual members did not sow bountifully, the church would not have much of a gift (see 2 Cor. 8.8-12; 9.6-7).

Additionally, we see a cooperation of local churches without common oversight. Each congregation determined the amount of its gift and chose its representative to take those funds to Jerusalem (cf. 1 Cor. 16.3-4; Rom. 15.25-28). We learn from this that when a need arises we have the responsibility and the pattern for how to carry out the work.

Finally, it should be noted that while this is the stated purpose of the collection, it would not be the exclusive purpose. The local church is far more than a benevolent society. Its primary work is the support of the truth (1 Tim. 3.15; 1 Cor. 9.14), while its secondary function is to support needy saints. Therefore, since there is an ongoing need for legitimate uses of the Lord's money, there is an ongoing need for a "putting aside" each week. Thus, a treasury is necessitated.

By examining this one verse, notice how simple it is to determine God's will on the matter. Admittedly, God did not say everything there is to know about giving. For example, how much money does God require? What time on the first day of the week will we take up a collection? Where will the monies be

stored? Clearly, God has left these things to our judgment. However, this does not mean there are no guiding principles. For example, 2 Corinthians 9.6-15 helps guide our decision on how much to give each Sunday. Since we reap what we sow, we are called to be liberal in our giving. As for the time of the day, if it is still the first day of the week, whatever time the church decides is beneficial for all is the time the collection will be taken. As for the storage (treasury), the elders or a trusted brother(s) may hold on to the money, we may keep the money in a safe at the building, or we may store our money in a bank account. By so doing, no command or principle is violated.

How, then, might one alter God's word concerning the doctrine of giving?

When God specifies, all else is excluded. Since God said, "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside..." this therefore excludes giving on Monday thru Saturday. Pressuring people or forcing them to give every time the doors are open, regardless of the day, is contrary to what God has expressly commanded, as is the modern innovation of online giving which makes giving possible at any day or time by simply going to a website and clicking on the donation link. If one argues that God's specifying Sunday does not exclude giving on other days, we must respond, "Then specifying bread and the fruit of the vine for the Lord's Supper does not exclude Pizza and Pepsi." Who would so contend?

In the same way, since God specified that the church raises money through free-will

offerings, then yard sales, church businesses, bake sales, church raffles, and other money-making schemes are excluded. Simply put, the only way a church can receive funds is from those who have donated their money.

Another way one might violate God's instructions is to demand something God never required. Many denominations do this when they bind tithing on their members. Tithing was an Old Testament legislation for *Israelites only*, and involved the giving of ten percent of one's money *and* God's blessings (for example, livestock and produce). However, nowhere in the New Testament does God obligate Christians to tithe ten percent. In fact, God instructs, "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9.7). Thus, each person will give a liberal free-will offering based on their decision of what they have prospered.

This is not to say a person cannot give ten percent; in fact, this is a good guiding principle – since Jesus has done so much for us, why give less than what was expected of the Jews? However, while a person may give ten percent, he must not impose this on others nor expect others to do something God never demanded. Thus, our free-will offerings may be based on what we have decided and how much we have been blessed by God. BG

Thanks to brother Bob Myhan for his guidance in writing this article.