

Authority: What We Get By Giving (II)

Problems in religion stem from rejection of authority

- AD 1311: sprinkling ... Council of Ravenna
- Mt.16:19 apostles, not 'popes'
 - Apostles merely teach what Lord already authorized
 - 1 Co.14:37, Paul writes...the *commandments of the Lord*
 - Change agents suggest ways to change work / worship of church

Changes in giving

a. Giving should be hidden from visitors

- Passing a basket may make some feel uncomfortable...
- Lord's supper too?
- Preaching truth may embarrass visitors.
 - Resort to sermonettes, few Scriptures, no applications?
 - 1 Co.14:24-25...
 - Speak on repentance? Judgment?

Changes in giving

b. Giving should not be announced/mentioned

– Members secretly put money in box (in auditorium, back room...)

- Do these preachers ever speak on **giving?** ...**generously?** ...**regularly?**
- Are 'giving' sermons out of date?
 - Does this mean NT is out of date?
- Is Bible class 'worship'? [Should we leave it at home?]

Changes in giving

- c. Scripture does not specify a certain day for giving
 - What about the parallel between 1 Co.16 and Acts 20:7?
 - 1 Co.16 is more emphatic (“*every*”)
 - Should they treat Lord’s supper as they treat contribution?

Changes in giving

- d. Some say 1 Co.16 is an expediency (aid; convenience): we can do it any day
- “as I gave order to churches of Galatia” ...
 - “so also you do” (imperative) ...
 - “lay aside on 1st day of week” (imperative)
 - 1 Co.16 is more emphatic than Ac.20:7
 - Should we treat Lord’s supper as they treat contribution?
 - May we take L. S. on any day?

Changes in giving

e. Giving is not worship

– Says who? By what authority?

I. Worship Has Always Been Important

Gn.4, two men 'worship'

- One worshipped by faith; other did not
- Emphasis on subject of worship –
 - Gn.4, first example of worship
 - Hb.11:4, emphatic warning to learn from the past

2 Sm.24, offering to LORD

²³ All these, O king, Araunah has given to the king... ²⁴ Then the king said to Araunah, No, but I will surely buy it from you **for a price**; nor will I offer **burnt offerings to the LORD** my God with that which **costs me nothing**. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

- Worship must cost the worshipper

Mal.1, offering to LORD

12 But you profane it, In that you say, The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible. **13** You also say, Oh, what a weariness! And you sneer at it, Says the LORD of hosts. And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand? Says the LORD.

14 But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished — For I am a great King, Says the LORD of hosts, And My name is to be feared among the nations.

1 Co.16 commands contribution on every first day of the week

This was not a special / limited / temporary revelation to church at Corinth

- Churches of Galatia received same orders, v.1
- 1 Co.1:2 – Paul wrote to ‘all that call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place’
- Includes all churches then and now
- Benevolence was temporary; method of raising funds is permanent model
- If we can set this command aside, we can set aside the Lord’s Supper

I. Worship Has Always Been Important

II. Giving is Worship

Acts 2:42

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers

- Spiritual context

- “Their fellowship was expressed not only in caring for each other, but in corporate worship too” – Stott
- Fellowship included “the regular giving of their income for the support of the Lord’s work (cf. Ro.15:26)” – Jackson

Acts 2:42 [Romans 15:26]

“Paul tells the Romans that Macedonia and Achaia – meaning the Christians living in these provinces – have been pleased to make a contribution; that is, to give material expression to their participation in Christian fellowship with the believers in Jerusalem.”

“It is interesting to observe that the word used in Ga.2:9 to indicate fellowship is the same as that which here in Ro.15:26 indicates a contribution. That Greek word – koinonia – has become so familiar in our circles that it is listed as an English word in *Webster’s Third International Dictionary*”
– (H)

Acts 2:42, Vine –

“Communion”...used of the common experiences and interests of Christian men, Acts 2:42... of sharing in the realization of the effects of the blood (i.e., the death) of Christ and the body of Christ as set forth in the emblems in the Lord’s supper, 1 Co.10:16 [The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?]

- Both Lord’s *supper* and *giving* are communion, Ro.15:26; 2 Co.8:4; 9:13; Heb.13:16...
- *Is one worship, but not the other?*

Acts 24:17, offerings

“Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation”

- “Some have suggested this is an allusion to the payments made by Paul on behalf of the 4 other men mentioned in Acts 21:23–26, but the text here suggests something Paul had planned to do before he came; the decision to pay for the expenses of the men in 21:23ff. was made at the suggestion of the Jerusalem leadership after he arrived” – NetB
- Either way: ‘offering’ is worship. Ep.5:2

Ph.2:17, offering

“even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and **service** of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all”

- OT: wine was poured on the sacrifice, a drink offering to God (Nu.15)
- Paul’s blood is the libation
- Philippians are priests who bring the sacrificial offering (in progress, 1:29) – living sacrifices, Ro.12:1)
- Paul can rejoice with them: double sacrifice gives opportunity for further fellowship

sacrificial service,

2:17 (BDAG, 591)

Ph.2:25, worship

“Epaphroditus ... who is also your messenger and minister to my need”

- Our ‘liturgy’ (worship)
 - Our giving is to God
 - Mt.25:40 ... inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me
- Is this worship?

Ph.4:14-18, shared

¹⁴ “Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. ¹⁵ Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. ¹⁸ Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.” [Gn.8:20f. ... Ep.5:2. Ph.4:18]

I. Worship Has Always Been Important

II. Giving is Worship

III. What we Get by Giving

2 Co.9

6: bountiful harvest (sowing is not throwing away)

7: love of God. Hb.13:10, 12, 15-16

8-10: adequate supply for every good work

11-14: glorification of God

15: become

Offer the sacrifice / sacrifices – worship words
Do good / share – involves giving / benevolence

Paul Butler

“In the culture of the first century, most people were paid at the end of every day for their labor (Mt.20:8). Every day they ‘stored up’ part of their daily wages, according to how much they were paid, and deposited it on the Lord’s Day... This is clearly an assertion that in the first century church there was a time (first day of the week) and a responsible administering (deposit) for money given by Christians to the Lord’s work. It is also a clear indication that the early Christians met on the first day of the week to worship and share in the Lord’s work”