



Doctrine: Money & Giving
From sermon 1.26.20

Read *Haggai 2:8* & *1 Timothy 6:10*

Questions and Review from Sunday's sermon: money is neither good nor bad. Everything is ultimately God's and He shares generously. We are among the most blessed/wealthy people on the planet and definitely in history. Biblical giving is an act of worship. It is the #1 gauge of the heart and faith. Our giving provides for the function of the local church and the preaching of the Word.

According to the Bible, is being rich or having plenty a sin? Not at all. It does create many unique challenges, however. Extra care must be used to remember that it's all God's, I'm a temporary steward, and to give back generously. I must not love, serve, worship money. See *Luke 6:13*

Discuss God-ordained Work. What attitude trend have we seen toward work in our generation? A generation raised on entitlement. I should be able to live however I choose and be supported, even financially, by everyone else.

Look up the following verses on work. Paraphrase and discuss what each is stating.

Exodus 20:9—the Command is actually 2-fold. You shall work 6 days and rest 1

2 Thessalonians 3:8-12—those who won't work shouldn't be given handouts. Work keeps us busy, provides for our needs, and protects us from sin.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12—work provides for our needs, the needs of others, and ability to give. Our work is a witness to the outside world.

What point(s) was brought up Sunday about Retirement? There may be a retirement from our career, but God never designed us to just sit around for the next 10, 20, 30 years. We need to use this new time in stewardship ways to serve, minister, volunteer, and reach out to the community. [Note: consider the ages of many God used in the Bible—Abraham, Moses, Paul, John]

See *Proverbs 30:8-9*. What are the dangers in financial extremes? Having too much can make me self-sufficient and even forget God. Having too little could lead me to steal/cheat. Can anyone fall into one of these traps? Explain. Yes. Various answers. Even us "middle-classers" can sin on either side by forgetting ho much God has blessed.

What are the four practices/expectations for New Testament giving?

2 Corinthians 9:7 Gladly/Cheerfully

2 Samuel 24:24 Sacrificially

1 Corinthians 16:2 Proportionally
Regularly

Teaching Note: Things that are NOT biblical giving*: money given to kids and family, donations to charity, the giving of my time instead. All of these are good and biblical. But, none of them is in place of prioritized giving to the local church.

The tithe: What is it? The Old Testament requirement on God's people to give 10% of all income. Are we under it? No. What model does it set? For New Testament Christians, we are to view all of our income as God's. 10% then becomes a good model starting point or goal. It does reinforce that we are to give regularly and proportionally to local church work.