

Offering or Paid Admission?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

When we go to church to worship do we think of what we are doing or is it just out of habit? So many things seem to be done without really knowing why they are done. It is just that it has been done that way for years. I believe the Bible tells us to know and to seek understanding. God wants us to worship in Spirit and in Truth. Let us consider our 'giving to the Lord' and to His work.

In my years as a minister, I have found that one of the hardest subjects for me to talk about is "giving." So many folks think that if a preacher talks about money he must want more for himself. The truth is, giving is a part of our worship and like everything else it should be done in the right way and in the right spirit. Let me also say that giving is not only in money but we should give ourselves; in time, effort, witness, study, prayer, and attendance.

In **Malachi 3:8** we read, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings." I know that this is Old Testament and we do not live under it. Yet, the principle of returning a portion to God was established before there was a nation of Israel. He blesses us and we are to return a portion to Him. Abraham gave ten percent to the priest of God in **Genesis 14:20**.

In **Malachi chapter 1** God rebuked the nation for giving lame animals to Him. He said to take them to the governor and see if he would be pleased with such an offering. God doesn't want a person's scraps, He wants our best. The same goes for our time; He wants first place in our lives, not just what is left over.

Do we feel like we should put something in the offering plate because everybody else does? I remember hearing this said when I was a child, "You must put something in when the offering is passed or people will talk about you." First, I hope we are a lot more concerned with what God thinks than what man thinks about us. Second, what we put in is between us and God.

If we know what the Bible says then we will know how to worship God in the area of offerings. In **I Corinthians 16:2** we are told, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in

store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." Each week we are blessed by the Lord and are told to set aside what belongs to the Lord. What happens if we are sick and have to miss church? Does that mean that we have extra money for ourselves? No, it is still the Lord's money.

If we only put in a little when we go, then we are of the opinion that we just need to pay admission. We would only be doing it to look good in the eyes of man; we have short changed God. If we are faithful and following God we give Him what is His. In giving let us have the attitude that we are thankful that He has blessed us to have it to give. Do not give hating to do it, but give from the heart. **I Corinthians 9:7** "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

Under the law, ten percent was God's, that was the tithe (tenth). Any given above that was an offering. Some can give much more than a tenth, others do not have much to give. Talk to God about what He wants and remember that He wants us to worship in Spirit and in Truth.

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WHEREWITH SHALL WE WASH?!

WHEREWITH SHALL WE DRINK?!

AND NOW FURTHER PLAGUES DESCEND UPON EGYPT...

AAIEE! THE LAND IS COVERED WITH FROGS!

AND FLIES AND LIKE DESCEND UPON THE EGYPTIANS.

THE LAND IS IN TORMENT— THIS IS THE FINGER OF GOD!

BRING MOSES UNTO ME— I WILL LET HIS PEOPLE GO!

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