

Give Until it Hurts?

Often, when we discuss the need to “give of our means”, I have heard someone say that we should “give until it hurts.” I understand the sentiment and realize that it is used to motivate people to consider their approach to supply for various needs and “dig deep” to reach certain goals. However, “giving until it hurts” is not a biblical description of the proper attitude in giving.

In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul said, “*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*” Note that Paul instructs the child of God that we **must** individually consider how we have been blessed and give accordingly. We should purpose or plan, our giving, rather than just follow a whim and it should be done with the proper attitude. That attitude is stated as being “cheerful.” The Greek word used here for “cheerful” is also the root for our word “hilarious.” Johnny Ramsey stated years ago that this means that we should “give until we laugh.” This speaks of the joy that should be manifested in our giving. Does that sound anything like the pain of “giving until it hurts?”

There are many good works to support and the cost of spreading God’s word can be high. May we be those who giving willingly, as we have prospered, so that this great work can continue to be carried out. There is always a need. I thank God for the generous givers who make such great works possible!

Outline: The Christian and Money (II)

1. The contribution (1 Cor. 16:1:2)

- A. The Text (2 Cor. 9:7; Phil. 4:15-18)
- B. How some view the contribution
- C. Biblical view of the contribution (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35; 11:27-30; Gal. 2:10; 2 Cor. 9:1-2; 8:1-7; Phil. 1:3-6; Rom. 15:27; 2 Cor. 9:12-15; 1 Jno. 3:16-18)

2. Practical Application: What and How?

- A. Children’s Homes and Widows (James 1:27; Acts 6:1-6)
- B. Preaching/Teaching (Phil. 4:15-16; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; 2 Tim. 2:2)
- C. Care of the facilities

P.M.: “Malachi”

Malachi

Introduction:

- A. Final book of the OT – “Malachi” means “messenger of Jehovah” – dated from 425-400 B.C.
- B. Purpose: positive and negative – to warn God’s people regarding unfaithfulness and to prophesy of the coming Messiah.

Discussion:

1. The Problems and Warnings Given in Malachi:

- A. Charges against the priests (1:6-14)
- B. Charges against the people (2:10-4:3)
- C. All was not bad (3:16-18)

2. Two Major Lessons:

A. Will a man rob God? (3:8-12)

- 1. God charges the people
- 2. God instructs the people
- 3. God promises the people
- 4. Application: God is not and never was pleased with half-hearted service (Mk. 12:29-30; Matt. 6:33; Col. 3:1-4). Ways in which God is robbed today:
 - a. Failing to use time properly (Eph. 5:15-16)
 - b. Failing to present our bodies as living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1-2)
 - c. Failing to realize the stewardship of our children (Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4)
 - d. Failing to give as we should

B. The promise of the Messiah (4:1-6)

- 1. Not a promise of the end of time, but the coming Messiah
- 2. Notice the impact of the statement over the next 400 years.
- 3. There will be a “sign” to mark His coming...one like Elijah.
- 4. Two NT concepts that might be easy to overlook:
 - a. John the Baptist was “Elijah” (Matt. 11:11-14; Lk. 1:17)
 - b. Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:10-13)