

NEW LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 44 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6NN Charity No.

44 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6NNCharity No. 1060655Tel: 020 7328 0869 (Manse); 020 7372 6858 (Office)Email: newlifebplondon@yahoo.co.ukWebsite: www.newlifebpc.co.ukAdministrator: Mok Chee Cheong 07921 929515

"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

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Dear Readers,

LORD'S DAY 28 MAY 2006

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF GIVING

Introduction

The principles and practice of giving are taught in the Bible and when obeyed, will bring blessings to both givers and recipients. But the greater blessings fall on the giver than on the recipient because *"it is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35).

Giving is the offering of something to God or others, or to both. It is making one's time as well as one's possessions available for the services of God and others, and this is the essence of true living. It is said that one can give without loving but one cannot love without giving. In the words of J.H. Jowett, "Cheerful giving is born of love...Giving is the language of loving; indeed, it has no other speech. 'God so loved that He gave!' Love finds its very life in giving itself away. Its only pride in possession is the joy of surrender. If love has all things, it yet possesses nothing."

The living and true God is the best example of giving. He is the Source of all giving (Psalm 50:10-12; 1 Chronicles 29:11-12). The ability to get wealth comes from God: *"But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God, for it is He that giveth thee the power to get wealth"* (Deuteronomy 8:18).

What are the Principles of Giving?

According to God's Word, giving ought to be done:

1. Purposefully

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give" (2 Corinthians 9:7a). We are not to come unprepared during the collection of tithes and offerings but must have purposed or determined to do so before going to church. In other words, giving is not to be done haphazardly but systematically and regularly every Lord's Day (1 Corinthians 16:2).

2. Proportionately

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him..." (1 Corinthians 16:2; Malachi 3:10a). "Every man shall give as...

he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which He hath given thee" (Deuteronomy 16:17a; Acts 11:29a). Our giving should be in proportion to our means: according to our financial ability. God is our Heavenly Father and as such He expects us to give what we have, not what we don't have (2 Corinthians 8:11-12). Our giving is the acid test of our love for God and His work.

3. Hilariously or cheerfully

It is "not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7b). The word 'hilarious' comes from the Greek word "hilaros". It describes the spirit of enjoyment in giving; willingly, cheerfully, without any restraint. Such attitude of giving is thereby loved of God. Some people use the expression: "give until it pains you," which is not giving at all. When we love, we are happy to give and it should not cause pain at all.

4. Secretly or without show

"But when thou doest alms (charitable deeds), let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:1-4). Our giving should be without show. In the sight of God, it is not the amount that counts but one's attitude and motive in giving that is taken into consideration. God judges the motives of our hearts. "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes, but the LORD weigheth the spirits" (Proverbs 16:2; 20:27; 21:2; 1 Chronicles 28:9).

5. Sacrificially

It is giving not only according to our ability but beyond it; going without some "extra" we would very much like. It is giving unselfishly to those who have a greater need. In the presence of all the people Jesus told His disciples about the widow's giving. "And He looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw also a certain poor widow casting thither two mites. And He said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than all. For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had" (Luke 21:1-3). And "God wants our hearts before our gifts. It is the quality of the gift that matters more than the quantity."

Another example of sacrificial giving was by the Macedonians who gave beyond Paul's hopes (2 Corinthians 8:1-4) for they gave of their own selves.

6. Freely

"Freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8b). Since we have freely received and are freely receiving daily from our Heavenly Father, we should freely give towards His cause and towards those who are members of the household of Christ who are in need, even those outside the household of faith. Since God Himself "spared not his own begotten Son but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32). Le Tourneau often said: "It is not how much money I give to God, but how much of God's money I keep for myself."

7. Generously

"He which soweth sparingly, shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself" (Proverbs 11:24-25; 22:9). This is the universal law of giving. The more you sow, the more you reap; the more you give, the more you receive. This is true not only in the farming community but also in the business world. One's return is determined by one's giving.

8. Willingly

"And they came every one...whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle..." (Exodus 35:21-22, 29). "Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy" (1 Chronicles 29:9). King David's appeal to his people was supported by his own voluntary personal gifts. He led his people in giving because he himself was exemplary in giving of his own wealth. And they gave with sincerity and singleness of heart and mind; they gave willingly, not of necessity.

What are the Promises of Giving?

God said, "...prove now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing. That there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:8-10). Can you imagine that God has so challenged you to test Him if He would not bless you when you tithe and give? Our God is a faithful God, a covenant-keeping God. He says what He means and means what He says.

Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).

Paul said, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Solomon said, "He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed: for he giveth his bread to the poor" (Proverbs 22:9; 28:27). "Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruit of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9-10).

Examples of Giving

Old Testament Time

- Abraham (Genesis 14:20; 25:6; 28:22)
- Moses (Numbers 3:51; 31:41; 32:33)

- Israelites (Exodus 35:21-29)
- Princes of Israel (Numbers 7:2-28)

New Testament Time

• Poor Widow (Luke 21:2-4; Mark 12:41-44)

• Macedonian Churches (2 Corinthians 8:1-5; Romans 15:26; see also 1 Corinthians 16:1,3).

Modern Time

• William Colgate (Soap and Toothpaste)

- Henry P. Crowell (Quaker Oats)
- Robert A. Laidlaw (N.Z. Businessman who wrote "The Reason Why" Booklet)• W.A. Criswell (Pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas)
- John D. Rockefeller (Founder of Esso, New Jersey)
- R.G. Letourneau (Tractor Manufacturer)

Conclusion

Let's not store up treasures on earth where there is no security but let us store them up in heaven where our investments are eternally secure, not subject to loss (Matthew 6:19-20).

In the words of Jim Elliot, one of the present day martyrs: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

Only one life,

'Twill soon be past.

Only what's done for Christ will last.

- C.T. Studd

Read the Bible in A Year

Calender of Daily readings for May 2006:

<u>Dav</u>	Family		Private	
1	Num 8	Psa 44	Song 6	Heb 6
2	Num 9	Psa 45	Song 7	Heb 7
3	Num 10	Psa 46,47	Song 8	Heb 8
4	Num 11	Psa 48	lsa 1	Heb 9
5	Num 12,13	Psa 49	lsa 2	Heb 10
6	Num 14	Psa 50	lsa 3,4	Heb 11
7	Num 15	Psa 51	lsa 5	Heb 12
8	Num 16	Psa 52-54	lsa 6	Heb 13
9	Num 17,18	Psa 55	lsa 7	Jam 1
10	Num 19	Psa 56,57	lsa 8,9	Jam 2
11	Num 20	Psa 58,59	lsa 9,10	Jam 3
12	Num 21	Psa 60,61	lsa 10	Jam 4
13	Num 22	Psa 62,63	lsa 11,12	Jam 5
14	Num 23	Psa 64,65	lsa 13	1 Pet 1
15	Num 24	Psa 66,67	lsa 14	1 Pet 2
16	Num 25	Psa 68	lsa 15	1 Pet 3
17	Num 26	Psa 69	lsa 16	1 Pet 4
18	Num 27	Psa 70,71	lsa 17,18	1 Pet 5
19	Num 28	Psa 72	lsa 19,20	2 Pet 1
20	Num 29	Psa 73	lsa 21	2 Pet 2
21	Num 30	Psa 74	lsa 22	2 Pet 3
22	Num 31	Psa 75,76	lsa 23	1 John 1
23	Num 32	Psa 77	lsa 24	1 John 2
24	Num 33	Psa 78	lsa 25	1 John 3
25	Num 34	Psa 78	lsa 26	1 John 4
26	Num 35	Psa 79	lsa 27	1 John 5
27	Num 36	Psa 80	lsa 28	2 John
28	Deut 1	Psa 81,82	lsa 29	3 John
29	Deut 2	Psa 83,84	lsa 30	Jude
30	Deut 3	Psa 85	lsa 31	Rev 1
31	Deut 4	Psa 86,87	lsa 32	Rev 2

"There is no having influence over the great men or the little men of this age except by being firm in your principles and decided in what you do. If you yield an inch, you are beaten; but if you will not yield – no, not the splitting of a hair – they will respect you"

- C. H. Spurgeon

The Christian's Daily Remembrancer

by Ps. James Smith

28 May 2006

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him" Proverbs 3:6

"AND HE SHALL DIRECT THY PATHS." We are the Lord's privileged people, having access to God's wisdom and help. It is folly to lean unto our own understandings. We are creatures of His power, the purchase of His blood, subjects to His grace. He has set His love upon us, employed His wisdom for us, and is deeply interested in all that concerns us. Everything we do should be done with a view to His glory; and in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, we should let our requests be made know unto Him. Everything should be mentioned at His throne, His presence, direction, and blessing, should be sought in reference to every circumstance of our lives. Our misery can never exceed His mercy, or our application at His throne find His ear preoccupied. He is our Father, and as such ought to be honoured. We should ask Him, and ask with the whole heart: for he who withdraws his heart in asking, will find God withdraw His hand in giving. Acknowledging God in all things will produce a steady peace of mind; it will preserve us from many temptations, and strengthen our faith in Him. He that always acknowledges God, will find that God always acknowledges him.

Stretch o'er my head Thy guardian wings,

Secure my soul, O King of kings!

My shield and refuge be;

Thy grace and mercy, Lord, display

Through Christ the Life, the Truth, the Way,

That I may come to Thee!

Lord, put within my heart Thy fear, Grant me from sin to fly; At all times to behold Thee near, And on Thy grace rely.

PSALM 32:1 "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."

THIS Beatitude does not say, "Blessed is the sinless man," but, "Blessed is the sinner forgiven." Unforgiven sin lies as a dead weight upon a life. But with forgiveness comes all the blessedness of life and glory. When we are forgiven we become at once God's children, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ to the inheritance of eternal life.

God covers our sins, and they are put out of sight forever—out of our sight, out of the world's sight, out of God's sight. God says He will remember our sins against us no more. So the covering is complete and final. The reason is that the sins are covered by an atonement made by another.

My forgetting that I owe a debt does not pay the debt. But when some other one pays it for me, the debt is covered and the charge blotted out. "All we like sheep have gone astray... and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." If our sins were laid on Jesus, surely they are covered forever and will never rise up against us!

EVENING A MEANS OF GRACE

SPIRITUAL life needs opposition to bring out its best development. It flourishes most luxuriantly in adverse circumstances. The very temptations which make our life one unceasing warfare train us into true soldiers of Christ. The hardnesses of our experiences, which seem to us to be more than we can possibly endure, make the very school of life for us in which we learn our best lessons and grow into whatever beauty and Christ-likeness of character we attain.

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON CHURCH THEME: STRIVING TO LIVE ABOVE OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST (Ephesians 1:3)

Our worship services begin promptly at 11.00 am and 4.00 pm.

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Invite your friends to come to Church.

	evening service	e. Invite your menus to con		
	Worship Servi	WELCOME		
Morning	Today: 28/05/2006	Next Week: 4/06/2006		
Chairman:	Mok Chee Cheong	Seetoh Yoong Chiang		
Speaker:	Ken Chan	Mok Chee Cheong	News/Announcements	
Message:	From Darkness to Light	Great Shepherd of the sheep	• <i>Evening Service:</i> Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC)	
Text:	John 9:1-41	John 10:1-21	This week:	
Organist:	Yanning	Amanda	Q96. What particular use is there	
Evening			of the moral law to unregenerate	
Chairman:	Lim Ming Yann	Alvin Chow	<i>men?</i> <i>Q97. What special use is there of</i>	
Speaker:	Mok Chee Cheong	Mok Chee Cheong		
Message:	The Use of the Moral Law	The Ten Commandments	the moral law to the regenerate?	
	WLC Questions 96-98	WLC Questions 99 (1 & 2)	Q98. Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?	
Pianist:	Feng Qian	Ming Yann		
	Other Duties	Next week:		
Today Next Week		Next Week	Q. 99. What rules are to be	
Ushers	Ming Yann/Jeff	Alvin/Wah Soon	observed for the right	
Sunday Sch:	Carol	Carol	understanding of the ten	
Singspirat'n:	Jonathan/Feng Qian	Yoong Chiang/Anthony	commandments??	
Lunch:	Magdelene	Constance	Do stay back and find out the	
Washing-up:	YAF Group 1	Prema/Yetta	answers from the Word of God.	
Bible Study:	DHW – Genesis 24	DHW – Genesis 24	• 10 th Anniversary preparations:	
	Appointments of the	This will take place on Jun 25.		
Wed 31 May	7:30 pm Mid Week Prayer Meeting: C'man: Mok		Church sanctuary cleaning has been planned for 10 and 17 Jun.	
Fri 2 June	7.00 pmYoung Adults Fellowship: Led by Jeff		• Book Sales: All books displayed	
Sat 3 June	4.00 pm Prayer Meeting & Spkr/C'man: Alvi		 on the book table are ½ price off. <i>Church Heating Installation:</i> 	
	Last Week's Worship Servi	Thank God for the successful		
Offering:	£326.13 Lunch: £27.50		completion of the installation and commissioning work. Please	
			commissioning work. Flease	

The Shorter Catechism

Q101. What do we pray for in the First Petition?

Ans: In the First Petition, - (which is, HALLOWED BE THY NAME) - we pray, That God would enable us, and others, to glorify Him in all that whereby He maketh Himself known; - and that He would dispose all things to His own glory.

Comments: A petition means something asked. In the Lord's Prayer there are six petitions – the first three being about God, and the last three about ourselves. In the first of these petitions we ask two things – that God's name be hallowed or glorified by all men, and that it be hallowed or glorified by all events. • *Pray for:* Students who will be having their examinations in the coming month.

place.

continue to pray for the other

renovation work that will take

• *Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology 2006:* The conference theme is "Promoting Spiritual Life and Service" and will take place from Tues 4th to Thurs 6th July. For those interested, please see Mok for the application form and costing details.