



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ DECEMBER 2019 ❖

GIFT GIVING

The Giver: God

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

The Gift: God’s Son

“...Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Philippians 2:5-8

The Recipients: Everyone

“Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

Acts 10:43

The Acceptance: Believe and Obey

“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”

Mark 16:16

The Result: New Life

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4

Our Gift: Living Sacrifice

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

The Contribution: The Rest of the Story

Whenever the subject of “contributing” is discussed, most often it involves talking about supporting the work of a local congregation financially. It takes money to pay for the upkeep of the building and to carry on the work of the local congregation. Many churches report the weekly contribution along with the budget, keeping its members informed of the financial status.

The New Testament has a number of references that provide guidelines for the local congregation in meeting its financial needs. Yet, it’s interesting to note that most of the verses cited initially concerned a one-time collection for needy saints in Judea.

What is revealed in Paul’s epistles (especially 1 and 2 Corinthians) is a project whereby brethren in churches in other countries would provide aid to the needy saints in Judea. This was a one-time event wherein Paul instructed the brethren (many of whom were Gentiles) to share their material resources with mostly Jewish brethren in Judea. He instructed the churches to “lay by in store” so the collection could be picked up by him and his traveling companions. It would be taken by them, along with any representatives of the participating congregations, to Judea.

The “rest of the story” of contributing can be overlooked when the focus is only on the congregation’s treasury.

‘CONTRIBUTING’ INCLUDES GIVING, SHARING

Giving, and it’s close relative, sharing, are part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the beginning of the church there were many instances of brethren contributing to the needs of others. Not all of the giving and receiving involved money. It was giving and sharing what others needed.

The same is true today. Sometimes what is given doesn’t have any monetary value. The giving of time to help a brother or sister with a load too heavy to carry. Lending support to one in need of spiritual, physical or emotional assistance. Giving words of encouragement, consolation, or exhortation to a brother or sister. Doing deeds of kindness that contribute to the welfare of others.

Such acts of giving and sharing are worth their weight in gold.

*... contributing to the needs of the saints,
practicing hospitality.*

Romans 12:13

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”

Romans 12:15

Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ ... So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Galatians 6:2,10

THE MOTIVE: LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

The giving and sharing are not done to receive recognition. It is done because members are motivated by love to do whatever they can. Thus, we are not privy to all of the occasions of giving and sharing by members done individually or collectively. Let each one contribute using his or her unique resources, abilities, and opportunities. Doing what you can, with what you have, where you are.

“In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Acts 20:35

Famous Hymns



Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King,
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reign;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders and wonders of His love.

Joy to the World Origin

In 1712, Isaac Watts was compelled to resign his pulpit because of declining health. The next few years were dedicated to a new large task called, "The Psalms of David, Imitated."

In preparing this work, Watts read back into the **Ninety-eighth Psalm** all of the joy of the coming Messiah. Basing his hymn on **verse four** (Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; make a loud noise and rejoice and sing praise), **verse 6** (Make a joyful noise before the Lord), **8 and 9** (Let the floods clap their hands, let the hills be joyful together before the Lord, for he cometh to judge the earth, with righteousness shall He judge the world), he wrote one of the most joyous hymns.

– Stories of Famous Hymns

Doxology

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Jude 1:24-25

FOOD **FOR**
THOUGHT

**Look past the moment of correction and discipline
and see the end results.**

*All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful;
yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields
the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*

Hebrews 12:11



Ponder This Optimism and Pessimism

An optimist sees an opportunity in calamity,
a pessimist sees calamity in every opportunity.

Optimists count their blessings,
pessimists discount theirs.

To an optimist a fireplace is a
center of warmth and beauty.

To the pessimist it is a
source of smoke and ashes.

A pessimist seldom recognizes an opportunity
because it usually involves some difficulty.

~~~~~

### **Persecution of the early Christians provided an opportunity to spread the good news to the regions of Judea and Samaria.**

*"...And on that day a great persecution arose  
against the church in Jerusalem; and they were  
all scattered throughout the regions of Judea  
and Samaria...those who had been scattered  
went about preaching the word."*

Acts 8:1,4

### **The Apostle Paul's arrest turned into an opportunity.**

*Now I want you to know, brethren, that my  
circumstances have turned out for the greater  
progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in  
the cause of Christ has become well known  
throughout the whole praetorian guard  
and to everyone else.*

## ❁ REMEMBER ❁ NEVER FORGET

Some things we need to remember!

### 3 THINGS TO REMEMBER

❶

*Remember Lot's Wife.*

Luke 17:32

*But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting  
his hand to the plow and looking back  
is fit for the kingdom of God."*

Luke 9:62

**Remember not to look longingly at  
where you were before becoming a  
disciple.**

❷

*In everything I showed you that by working  
hard in this manner you must help the weak  
and remember the words of the Lord Jesus,  
that He Himself said, "It is more blessed  
to give than to receive."*

Acts 20:35

**Remember to do good to all men  
as you have opportunity.**

❸

*If therefore you are presenting your offering at  
the altar, and there remember that your brother  
has something against you, leave your offering  
there before the altar, and go your way; first be  
reconciled to your brother, and then come and  
present your offering.*

Matthew 5:23-24

**Remember religious observances are  
not more important than personal  
obligations.**

F.Y.C. is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.

Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

Past Issues are archived at <http://ra10ar.com>

All rights reserved. © 2019