

BITS & PIECES

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

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HOW TO GIVE TO GOD

The Macedonian Christians, “...**first gave their own selves to the Lord.**” ~*II Corinthians 8:5*. That is why they gave so generously to the Lord. It says these people were poor but they gave liberally of what they had. Someone has observed that the Bible refers to giving about 1520 times! In the New Testament almost one verse in six relates to giving. I don’t understand Christians who find it hard to give to God and His work. The secret is, “they first gave their own selves!” If you ever really get to Romans 12:1,2 (or I should say if it ever gets to you), giving will not be a problem. “**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God...**” Think about this – “**God loveth a cheerful giver.**”

JESUS SAID, YE SHALL BE WITNESSES UNTO ME

There is a big difference between the early Christians and we modern day believers in Jesus Christ. In spite of great persecution, here is how they prayed: “**Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word... And when they had prayed...they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and spake the word of God with boldness.**” ~*Acts 5:29,31*. It is commonly reported that not more than 5% of modern day Christians seriously try to win someone to Christ. I believe this is true; it may well be less. Two causes strike me: There is not sufficient love for Christ to motivate us (*II Corinthians 5:14*: “**For the love of Christ constraineth us...**”) and we do not have compassion on poor lost sinners like our Savior does. We need revival, but it will not come without repentance.

WHY GOD SAVED YOU

“God didn’t save you to make you happy. That’s a by-product. He died to make you holy. You were predestined to be conformed to the image of God’s Son.” - Vance Havner. “**But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.**” ~*I Peter 1:15*. Happiness seems to be the goal of most Christians, not holiness!

GOT TO GO DOWN TO GO UP!

D. L. Moody said: “The first step to a higher service is the end of self/ God’s way up is down. God never yet lifted a man up high that He did not cast him down first; never. Self must be annihilated. When we get to the end of our own power then it is that the power of God is annihilated in us.” “**Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.**” ~*I Peter 5:6*.

DO YOUR BEST

One day while walking with some children, Queen Mary was caught in a shower. She took shelter on the porch of a nearby home. She knocked on the door and asked to borrow an umbrella promising to send it back tomorrow. The queen had disguised herself by wearing ordinary clothes. The lady was a little leery, but offered her an umbrella that was somewhat broken. The next day the lady had a visitor, a man with gold braid on his uniform. He handed her a letter saying, “The Queen sent me with this letter.” The woman was stunned and burst into tears saying, “Oh, what an opportunity I missed because I did not give her my very best.” How many Christians do not give Jesus their best? They will be sorry.