Principle of Giving To The Lord

(God’s Formula)

Introduction: Every Sunday morning we take a few minutes, usually after the Lord’s Supper, and pass the collection plate. Often we stress that this is separate and apart from the Lord’s Supper. Giving can be a difficult subject to address because it is a personal matter, it is quantitative. Most do not want to cheat God. Some give by habit, others look at what is let over and then give some. Others look for a formula. In particular a tenth, considered tithing. We want to look at what the Old Testament and New Testament says about giving.

**I) Giving Under the Old Law**

**A) Giving to provide for the Levites, help the poor (widows and fatherless).**

1. There was a purpose for the giving.

2. Not all of the giving was done at the temple.

**B) Law of tithing, Deut. 14.22-27.**

1. Additional giving, every third year, **Deut. 14.28,29.**

2. Law on first fruits, **Deut. 26.1,2, 9-12.**

a. This meant they were giving the best they had.

b. Perhaps also a realization that they would have more fruits for themselves.

3. Law on charging interest, **Deut. 23.19-22.**

a. They were not to glean the fields, **Lev. 19.9-20.**

b. Some of their giving was for the priest to perform their task, some to help the needy.

c. All giving was aimed at God, to please Him.

**C) In addition – the daily sacrifices, yearly sacrifices, not charging interest.**

1. Do we rest our land every 7th year, 50 year?

2. The Law of Moses does not apply today, **Hebrews 8.6,7, 13.**

**II) The New Testament On Giving**

**A) There was a common treasury, Acts 4.34-35; 5.4.**

1. Out of this treasury – edification, evangelism, and benevolence.

2. The church is not in the business of raising funds, charging for services, making money.

3. The only scriptural way for the church to have money is from the collection of the saints.

4. When we pay for something, pay something out of the treasury, it is from the funds we have all given.

**B) 1 Corinthians 16.1-2 this giving was periodical.**

1. It was on the first day of the week.

**C) 2 Corinthians 8.1-5, 12**

1. Those with ability helped those Christians in need.

2. A willing mind. It is important for us to think about our giving.

**D) 2 Corinthians 9.6-15**

1. Not a set formula – 10%, 15%, or 30%.

2. Not to judge ourselves as a congregation by the silver barometer.

a. Smyrna was poor but rich, **Revelation 2.9**

b. Laodicea was rich but poor, **Revelation 3.17.**

3. Purpose in his heart v**. 7.**

a. To purpose is to think about what and why you are giving.

4. God loves a cheerful giver, hilarious, out of joy. **V. 7, Deut. 12.5-7**

a. The Bible does not say to give till it hurts but to give till it feels good.

5. All liberality – contrast with grudgingly or of necessity, **Mark 12.42-43.**

**III) Principles of Giving**

**A) Invalid concepts**

1. God will go broke or in debt.

2. Buy our way into heaven.

**B) Giving**

1. To obey God.

2. To learn to give cheerfully, **Acts 20.35.**

3. To make us think about our blessings- physical and spiritual.

4. Giving is a matter of stewardship.

Conclusion: Story of man look to buy a pearl. It all belongs to God.