



November 13, 2016

## Stewardship Sunday !

Whether or not your church has chosen this Sunday as Stewardship Sunday, any Sunday is a good day to remember why it is "we give". Very often, people ask or wonder "what are the basic biblical principles for Christian giving?" Are we instructed by God to give, or just by our church?



In our review of New Testament passages, we find the following principles for Christian giving.

- 1. The Lord Jesus expects and requires us to give.** Jesus said to His disciples, "when you give" not "if you give" (Matthew 6:2)! He expected all His followers to be givers.
- 2. The Lord Jesus wants us to give for the right reasons.** Jesus warned His disciples not to give for the sake of being admired by men. When we give, we must be careful to examine our motives. We ought to give for the glory of God and the good of His people.
- 3. The Lord Jesus wants us to practice benevolent or charitable giving.** Jesus said "When you give to the poor . . ." (Matthew 6:2-3). Jesus is specifically teaching about "alms" in this passage: aid, charity, or benevolent offerings for the needy.
- 4. The Bible teaches that Christian giving must be willing giving, free giving.** We learn this in 2 Corinthians 9:7: "Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion." But doesn't this contradict what we learned under the first principle, that Christian giving is not optional? The answer is, of course, no. True Christian giving is both mandatory and voluntary. It is required by God, but always willingly given by the believer.
- 5. The Bible teaches that Christian giving ought to be cheerful giving.** As Paul says "God loves a cheerful giver." This is a truly amazing assertion. Paul assures us here that the Lord takes a special delight in those who are joyful, energetic, merry givers. **Is there joy in your heart as you give? Can you truly be characterized as a "cheerful giver"?**

So, it is up to you. Have you reached your potential for giving? Do you give joyously? Have you given time to reflect, in prayer, as to your giving practices? Only you can answer these questions.

- Excerpts from "10 Essential Truths about Christian Giving" from Biblestudytools.com

Getting to Know :

Good Shepherd/Tuckerton UCC

170 Tuckerton Rd., Reading, PA 19605

Our mission is "To be a church where all people are welcome to worship, study, learn and serve in ministering to each other and our local and worldwide communities".



The mission of the church is to reach out and touch the lives of others with the love of Jesus Christ. To that end we are directly involved in a number of mission endeavors.

On the last Friday of each month we prepare and serve dinner at Opportunity House in the city of Reading. On the third Thursday of the month we participate with six other congregations to distribute food at the Muhlenberg Churches Food Pantry. The distribution is held at Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church at the intersection of Tuckerton Rd and Stoudts Ferry Bridge Rd. This pantry is open to all residents who reside in the 19605 and 19560 zip codes. People of the congregation volunteer for the Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries which provides temporary assistance to people who need transportation to the doctor, grocery shopping, cleaning, etc.

We host Scout Troop 155 and Pack 155 as an extension of our ministry to youth. In October we walk in the CROP Walk sponsored by Church World



Service to aid in their efforts to alleviate hunger worldwide. 25% of the proceeds raised at the walk are given to the Greater Berks Food Bank.

We participate in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life to fund cancer research. Still others donate blood through the Miller-Keystone Blood Bank, hosting the event a few times a year. We also provide financial support to a number of mission efforts. We continue to look for worthy organizations to support.



Prayers are requested for Good Shepherd (Tuckerton) UCC in Reading and Rev. Dr. Robert A. Stewart.