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should recognize the fact that it merits a greater contribution than the law of Moses did.

Going to the Old Testament for the purpose of trying to determine an amount of contribution which will be pleasing to God is not unscriptural nor illogical. When Paul was arguing that the church should support preachers in 1 Corinthians 9:10, he referred the Corinthians to Deuteronomy 25:4, which says, "Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox when he treadeth out the corn." The burden of Paul's argument was that God required the people to support those who were, even in the Old Testament, attending to the things pertaining to the worship of God; therefore, we should not think it would be right not to do as much under the New Testament, a law that is far superior to the law of the Old Testament. Thus, it is perfectly scriptural and right to base an argument upon principles found in the Old Testament.

When the Jews had refused to contribute the tenth of their income, as God had commanded them, he rebuked them severely through his prophet Malachi, even asking them, "Will a man rob God?" And then he stated, "Yet ye have robbed me." They were disturbed by such an accusation and asked, "Wherein have we robbed thee?" Malachi answered, "In tithes and offerings." Now, by what manner of reasoning can one conclude that ROBBERY in the Old Testament, a law that was not perfect, can be LIBERALITY in the New Testament, a law that was sealed by the blood of Christ?

The Lord challenged them by saying, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me 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 be room enough to receive it" (Mal 3:10).

There is not a Christian in the world who cannot give as much as a tenth of his income and live well as he did before he gave a tenth. It is just a matter of faith. Do we trust God or not? God will be as good to us if we obey him as he ever was to the Jews who obeyed him. And there was not a Jew who lived for fifteen hundred years during the law of Moses who could not give as much as a tenth of his income to God. Paul said to the Corinthians, "He which soweth sparingly shall reap sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" (1 Cor 9:6). If we believe that statement, let us prove it by contributing liberally to the cause of Christ.

Things and persons appear to us according to the light we throw upon them from our own minds. How unconsciously we judge others by the light that is within ourselves, condemning or approving them by our own conception of right and wrong, honor and dishonor! We show by our judgement just what the light within us is.
-- Laura Ingalls Wilder

"Life offers many choices. Eternity offers only two." — Author Unknown

April 22 2018

church of Christ at Alisal

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Nuku Hiva
French Polynesia

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:1-5)

MEETING UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Listen on AM Radio 880 KKMC in Salinas, California
2nd Friday of each month @ 1:30 pm

Bible Classes..... 9:00 A.M.
Assemblies..... 10:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

<http://churchofchristalisal.com/>

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class, Singing, & Prayer..... 6:30 P.M.

Welcome

Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!



This Week's Sermon's

A.M. - Worship - Giving
P.M. -

LIBERALITY IN GIVING

W.L. Totty (Deceased)



Liberality in our contributions to the church is very important and should be given serious consideration. Haphazard contributing, as is done by many, amounts to very little in supporting the church and affords but very little comfort to the giver. The church is a business and must be run as a business if we expect to accomplish what the Lord wants us to do.

Because the New Testament does not, in so many words, state the exact percentage which the Christian should contribute, many conclude that the Lord is pleased with just any amount, whether large or small, as long as it is given cheerfully. But the apostle Paul said, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." Purposing in our hearts, therefore, is necessary to pleasing God with our contributions. To purpose means to plan. Every Christian should purpose the first of the year to give a certain percent of his income for the year.

The right amount one contributes is also necessary. Paul, writing to the church at Corinth, said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (1 Cor 16:2). God expects us to give as he has prospered us. It is a sin for Christians to involve themselves in debt for material things until they have practically nothing to contribute to the Lord and then try to excuse themselves by saying that they have not been prospered. Our contribution to the church should be planned first. Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things [material] shall be added unto you" (Mt 6:33).

A Christian should train his heart to the point that he is able to give liberally and at the same time do it cheerfully. An easy way to ascertain the correct amount to contribute is to study the Old Testament scriptures which deal with the contribution of God's people under that law. Those scriptures were given to us for that purpose. Paul wrote to the Corinthians and said, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition" (1 Cor 10:11).

The least the Jews could give, and please God, was a tenth. Are we ready to conclude that we can give less under the law of Christ than the minimum which the

Jews had to give under the law of Moses in order to please God? We are living under a much better covenant than the law of Moses; therefore, we should contribute to it as liberally, at least, as the Jews did to the Mosaic covenant. The Hebrew writer said, "But now hath he obtained a MORE EXCELLENT MINISTRY, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon BETTER promises" [emphasis WLT] (Heb 8:6). And we are told in Romans 8:3, "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." Also, in Acts 13:39 we read, "And by him all that believe are justified from all things from which you COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED by the law of Moses" [Emphasis, WLT]. We are also told in Hebrews 10:4, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." And in order to convince us that God expects more of us than he did the Jews, we are told in Hebrews 10:28-29, "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite to the Spirit of grace?"

In light of these passages, no reasonable, thinking person would hasten to conclude that we can afford to do less in any respect--contribution or otherwise--than the Jews did, because we are living under a perfect law of liberty, a law that was sealed by the blood of the Son of God. To fail to take into consideration these facts is a failure to recognize the difference between the law of Christ which was sealed with his blood and law of Moses which was sealed by the blood of animals.

Wise people contribute to a thing according to the value of the thing; and since the New Testament covenant is of so much more value than the law of Moses, we
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Announcements

1. Brother David will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Romans Class this coming Wednesday evening. Chapter 2 part 1.

~ On the Prayer list

Please take the time to pray for the United States of America and each of the members here at the Alisal congregation.

The church at Alisal - for growth, sowing the Word, and all our works here in Salinas and elsewhere.

Have a blessed week!