

2009-2010 WORLD MISSIONS SERMON OUTLINE

THE PRIORITY OF GIVING

Gary Allen

TEXT

But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).

INTRODUCTION

Paul encouraged the church at Corinth to excel in the grace of giving just as they had excelled in faith, speech, earnestness and love. To excel is to set the standard or benchmark; to be superior; being and doing our best.

We constantly receive appeals from worthy causes, describing how urgent the need is and how much they need our financial support. We understand the importance of supporting the kingdom of God with our finances, but sometimes we need to remember the priority and balance of our giving.

- I. The first priority is the tithe.
 - A. Tithing is a proven principle of God's Word (Malachi 3:6-12).
 - B. We *pay* our tithe (10 percent) and *give* our offerings.
 - C. Tithe is for the support of the local church.
 - D. The benefits of tithing:
 - We learn obedience to God and His Word.
 - We learn the joy of obedience and benefit of living in God's provision.
 - E. We can live better on 90 percent with God's blessing than 100 percent on our own.
 - F. Missions giving and special offerings are opportunities to give beyond our tithe as we determine with our own will and judgment.
 - G. *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).*
- II. The second priority is missions.
 - A. Jesus said, "Go into all the world ..." (Mark 16:15).

- B. The most effective means of reaching the world with the gospel message is with missionaries called to plant strong, self-sustaining ministries and churches.
 - C. It is our privilege to partner with these dedicated missionaries through our financial support.
 - D. Missionaries need monthly support to minister in the unique places to which they are called.
 - E. Missionaries need us to partner with them in funding special ministry projects.
- III. The third priority is offerings.
- A. Money, time and energy are always needed for church ministries, events, guests, building funds and other ministries and special projects.
 - B. Generosity is the hallmark of the Christian. The disciplined Christian knows how to live within his or her means, give generously and save for the future.
 - C. *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” (Luke 6:38).*

CONCLUSION

Today is a time to reaffirm your commitment to God and support of His Kingdom.
Ask yourself:

1. Have I been faithful in tithing?
2. Am I committed to global missions and am I balanced in my giving to local and world ministries?
3. Do my generous offerings reflect my commitment to my local church?

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