

Giving without Expectation

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

—1 Timothy 6:6-10

My dad losing his parents at the age of nine.

“What ifs, if onlys, should of’s, could of’s.....”

We all live with expectations that if we do something good there will be a positive result.

We all do this.

We do this in relationships.

If I meet your needs then I expect you will meet my needs.

If I serve you then you must serve me.

We do this in gift giving:

Well, we bought their daughter a \$75.00 gift for her wedding.

I expected they would do the same when our son got married.

Somewhere along the way of life we come to believe there is a **giant balancing scale. (Show Tom’s Scale. Need quarters for balance)**

When we deposit good into one side we expect the Lord Jesus to deposit good on the other side.

We expect to receive back because we have given first.

While it is true that the bible speaks of the Lord giving more to those who use properly what he has given most Christians who operate on the idea of getting back because they have given is closer to the Hindu and Buddhist idea of karma.

Karma: The Sanskrit word Karma literally means “action.”

In Buddhism however, karma mainly refers to one's intention or motivation while doing an action.

The shortest explanation of karma that I know is: 'you get what you give'. In other words; whatever you do intentionally to others, a similar thing will happen to yourself in the future.

First and foremost Christians reject Karma. We reject this idea that we always get back what we give, think, or do!

Why? Listen to God's Word:

Psa. 103:10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Now I know you can come back say, “Well the Bible does say that we will be rewards according to our deeds....”

This is true and I will not deny it.

But we need to always balance all of scripture not just selected passages.

The overall message of the Bible that dominates our believe is that we are in deep, deep, deep, debt for our sins and that **Jesus had already paid the price for our sins.**

Why do we expect that Jesus owes us something beyond that?

Imagine that you were **\$1,000,000** in debt. Hopelessly broke. No way of paying it off. No collateral, no savings, no prospect of making enough money to pay is off.

Someone comes along and pays the million dollar debt. Free and clear.

Whatever good you did from that point on would you still expect that person to give you a return on your goodness?

ANSWER IS A SIMPLE NO!

Anyone who thought that way we would call presumptuous, foolish and un-great-ful.

How often are we presumptuous, foolish, un-great-ful with Jesus?

Jesus says to us in Luke 17:10 So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

Why are we merely unworthy servants doing our duty?

The answer is obvious: **“We have nothing to bargain with?”**

We cannot balance the Lord's scale of his mercy and gifts.

We cannot offer him anything to entice him to give us more.

We cannot twist his arm.

We cannot force him to do our will.

We are the recipients of his love not the source of his love.

The bible puts it this way: ***“Rom. 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.”***

Practical application of this truth: Is Giving without expectation.

Give to the Lord without expecting a blessing.

Give to others without expecting applause or thankfulness.

Give to others even when they are ungrateful.

Give to others without expecting them to pay you back.

All our giving, service, helping others is really giving to Jesus.

The reality of giving to Jesus by giving to others is tricky.

When we do we expect them to respond like Jesus or to be thankful, or to say something that will confirm our giving as being the right thing to do.

Let's was a short- movie clip from the movie “Walking Across Egypt” where one women is talking to another about what she learned in church about giving.

SHOW VIDEO CLIP

I love the final statement of the women who was standing: ***“No he didn't look like Jesus and he definitely didn't talk like Jesus.”***

Guess what? Those you serve and give too without expectation never will look like or talk like Jesus??

Once we come to grips that giving will not often result in praise or thanks then we can face the second big problem Christian face. The problem that it is all too easy to fall in love with money rather than to see money as a tool.

1 Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

How does this verse define the love of money? What happens when people are too eager for money?

This verse does not say that money is evil, nor does it say that money is the root of all evil.

It says that **the love of money** is the root of all kinds of evil.

The warning is clear in this verse -- those who are too eager for money will have problems in their lives.

They may become so obsessed with their finances that they wander from the faith -- their job or their investments become their commitment instead of their faith.

They will evaluate things and people on the basis of their monetary value.

Some will pierce themselves with grief -- when we are seeking material possessions, we will never be satisfied.

We will always want more things that are bigger and better.

Nowhere does the Bible tell us we need to abandon possessions or not earn money, but it does warn us against the danger of being obsessed with money.

I know Tom Petters. Tom Petters is a Christian who lost his way.

I am confident that Tom started out wanting to do good and honor the Lord.

Somewhere along the way-whether it was disappointment with the way people responded to his giving or he became obsessed with money, Tom's love of money overtook Tom's ethics and beliefs.

He became obsessed with money.

But you don't need to get caught and jailed to be guilty of the love of money. That is why Paul warns us to be on guard against money obsession.

Symptoms of Obsession:

- 1. No matter how much I have I always want more.**
- 2. I am more interested in reading the Sunday ads than I am reading the news.**
- 3. I am constantly worrying about money and how to get more of it.**
- 4. Money makes me feel secure.**
- 5. Money gives me power.**
- 6. Money enables me to have freedom.**
- 7. Pursuing Money is more important than pursuing Jesus.**

So how do you overcome the love of money?

1 Timothy 1:6-7 Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

The key to giving without expectation and the ability to not love money is found in these two verses.

Main phrase: "Godliness with Contentment."

The first part of the key is “godliness”.

This means that our worldview, our focus for living, the understanding of our purpose for life is centered on Jesus Christ.

It has often been said that a cabinet member of the President of the United States serves at the pleasure of the President.

That means their entire purpose is to serve at the will and discretion of the President.

Our life, as Christians, is to serve at the will and discretion of our Lord Jesus.

Godliness means that we

- think Jesus’ thoughts,**
- we talk like Jesus,**
- we serve like Jesus,**
- to have Jesus’ priorities,**
- to have Jesus worldview,**
- to live like Jesus,**
- to give as he gave,**
- to sacrifice as he sacrificed.**

Godliness with contentment means that we focus our life and purpose on becoming like Jesus and knowing Jesus and in that we are satisfied and secure.

Why is this so important and valuable?

Paul reminds Timothy in the latter part of verse 6-7

for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

ARE YOU READY? HOLD ONTO YOUR SEATS. I AM ABOUT TO SHARE THE GREATEST MYSTERY OF CHRISTIANITY THAT ILLUDES THE MAJORITY OF CHRISTIANS FOR ALL TIME!

BELIEVE ME-I AM VERY SERIOUS.

THE GOAL OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, ONCE WE KNOW JESUS, IS NOT TO SEE HOW MUCH WE CAN ACCUMULATE IN PRAISE, RESOURCES, AND SUCCESS.

THE GOAL IS TO SEE HOW MUCH OF IT WE CAN GIVE AWAY SO THAT OTHERS KNOW JESUS AND BECOME HIS DISCIPLES.

My question to you and to me today is this: SO HOW ARE YOU DOING?

If a host of angels appeared before you right now and made a judgment about your life would they conclude:

He's accumulating for himself!

OR

He's giving it all away to build the kingdom of God!

Yellow Card

_____I reject any ideas or expectations known as "karma".

_____I am determined to give to the Lord Jesus without expectation that he owes me anything more than what he has already accomplished for my forgiveness and salvation.

_____I will ask Jesus today and everyday this week for his attitude of giving to others without expectation of return or thanks.

1 Timothy 6:6-10
Luke 17:5-10