

THE BEST DONATION, 2ND COR. 8:5,  
"THEY...FIRST GAVE THEIR OWN SELVES TO THE LORD AND UNTO US,  
BY THE WILL OF GOD."

I. DONATIONS OF POSSESSIONS

1. THE CHRISTIANS OF MACEDONIA

A. THEIR LIBERALITY, V. 2

B. THEY GAVE IN SPITE OF THEIR POVERTY, V. 7

C. THEIR FELLOWSHIP OF MINISTERING TO OTHER CHRISTIANS, V. 4

2. ALL CHRISTIANS ARE URGED TO ABOUND IN THIS GRACE, V. 7.

A. TO PROVE THE SINCERITY OF YOUR LOVE, V. 8.

B. FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, V. 9.

C. PRINCIPLES OF GIVING:

(1). WILLINGNESS, V. 12.

(2). CHEERFULLY, 9:7

(3). PROPORTIONATELY, V. 12-14

AND 2 COR. 16:2

(4). REGULARLY, ON 1ST DAY OF WK. 2 COR. 16:2

II. DONATION OF PERSON, "First they give themselves"

1. GIVING ONESELF TO THE LORD

A. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GIVE ONESELF TO THE LORD?

(1). TO GIVE ALL THE POWERS AND FACULTIES OF THE SOUL TO HIM.

(2). TO GIVE YOUR HEARTS TO HIM. *What can I give Him?*

(3). TO GIVE OUR CONSCIENCE TO HIM.

(A). SOME GIVE THEIR CONSCIENCE TO THEIR FRIENDS

(B). THE BOY IN SCHOOL WHO WAS LED TO BELIEVE THAT

ONLY "SQUARES" MAKE GOOD GRADES.

(4). TO GIVE YOUR WILL TO GOD.

(5). TO GIVE YOUR INFLUENCE TO HIM.

(6). TO GIVE YOUR CONDUCT TO GOD.

(7). TO GIVE YOUR BODY TO HIM. ROM. 12:1

(8). TO GIVE YOUR TIME TO HIM.

(9). TO GIVE YOUR ENERGY TO HIM.

(10). TO GIVE YOUR THOUGHTS AND MIND TO HIM. *little girl, young thinking about God.*

B. THEY FOLLOWED THE RIGHT ORDER:

THEY DID FIRST THINGS FIRST, MT. 6:33.

(1). GOD WOULD RATHER HAVE YOUR LIFE THAN YOUR LIVING.

(2). WHEN GOD HAS YOUR PERSON, HE WILL HAVE YOUR POSSESSIONS.

*little girl who said, "I gave myself to Him."*

C. THEY FELT IT WAS RIGHT TO GIVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD:

(1). BECAUSE CHRIST HAD BOUGHT THEM WITH HIS BLOOD

THEY HAD FIRST TRUSTED HIM AS SAVIOR

WE ARE NOT OUR OWN; WE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE.

(2). BECAUSE OF THEIR LOVE FOR THE LORD.

(3). BECAUSE IT WAS THE WILL OF GOD.

(4). YOU CANNOT BE TRULY HAPPY IF NOT SURRENDERED TO GOD.

(5). YOU NEED HIS POWER FOR VICTORIOUS LIVING.

D. HOW WE SHOULD GIVE OURSELVES TO GOD.

(1). HUMBLY AND REVERENTLY

(5). DELIBERATELY, BEFINITELY

(2). IN FAITH

(6). COMPLETELY

(3). WITH UNDERSTANDING

(7). CHEERFULLY

(4). IN LOVE

(8). IMMEDIATELY

(9). PUBLICLY

A. "AND UNTO US"

B. IF YOU HAVE FIRST GIVEN YOURSELF TO THE LORD,  
THEN THE NEXT STEP WILL NATURALLY AND EASILY FOLLOW.

(1). CONFESSING CHRIST PUBLICLY.

(2). IDENTIFYING YOURSELF WITH GOD'S PEOPLE.

(3). OFFERING YOURSELF FOR SERVICE.

C. WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO THIS?

(1). IT IS THE WILL OF GOD THAT YOU WHO LOVE GOD  
SHOULD BE NUMBERED WITH HIS PEOPLE

AND WITNESS FOR CHRIST.

(2). IT IS FOR YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING,  
COMFORT, GROWTH, AND PRESERVATION.

(3). FOR THE SAKE OF THE TESTIMONY OF THE GOSPEL.

IF IT IS RIGHT FOR ONE TO REFRAIN FROM MEMBERSHIP  
IN THE CHURCH, IT IS RIGHT FOR EVERYONE;

AND THEN CHURCHES WOULD CEASE TO EXIST,

AND THE TESTIMONY OF THE GOSPEL WOULD BE LOST  
TO THE WORLD.

(4). YOU OWE THIS TO YOUR CHURCH AND FELLOW-WORKERS.

(A). SOME OF THEM ARE FAINTING FOR LACK OF  
SUFFICIENT HELPERS.

(B). THE NEED OF WORKERS IN OUR VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS  
AND DEPARTMENTS.

HEART TO HEART TALK ABOUT THIS SITUATION.

(C). SOME ARE IDLY ADMIRING THE WORK OTHERS ARE DOING.

(D). OTHERS ARE CRITICISING THE OVER-WORKED LABORERS,  
INSTEAD OF HELPING THEM.

#### CONCLUSION:

1. LET US ALL DEDICATE AND REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE LORD.

2. LET US ALL SINCERELY, ZEALOUSLY, AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY  
GIVE OURSELVES TO THE WORK AND SERVICE OF OUR CHURCH.

melville Cox, dying at age 33 said,  
"let a thousand fall,  
but let not Africa be given up" (+7 others)  
Before Alexander Mackay set out for Uganda,  
he said to the C.M.S. "Within 6 months  
you will probably hear that the Lord is dead.  
do not be cast down,  
and send someone else immediately  
to take the vacant place."