

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. 12
- 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 gave 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, just 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'd give 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, DEFINITELY |
| (2). IN FAITH              | (6). COMPLETELY               |
| (3). WITH UNDERSTANDING    | (7). CHEERFULLY               |
| (4). IN LOVE               | (8). IMMEDIATELY              |
|                            | (9). PUBLICLY                 |



2. GIVING ONESELF TO THE CHURCH

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. *the Spirit of the ancient covenant*
- (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.

*include Cox, dying at age 33 said,*

*"Let a Thousand speak"*

*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 one James is dead.  
do not be cast down,  
but send someone else immediately  
to take the vacant place."*

A.M. 4/17/55