

# Scripture Reading

## 2 Timothy 2

**11** This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.

**12** If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

**13** If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

# Giving to the Lord

# Giving to the Lord

- ▶ God does not need anything from us; we need everything from Him
- ▶ **Acts 17:24** “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. **25** Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

# *“Why then should I give anything to the Lord?”*

- ▶ The answer: Giving to the Lord is about us - our attitude of heart and our faith in God.
- ▶ **Mark 12:41** Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. **42** Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. **43** So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; **44** for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”

# *“Why then should I give anything to the Lord?”*

- ▶ The rich people put much money into the treasury, but their giving was “*out of their abundance*” (v. 44).
- ▶ The widow gave “*all that she had, her whole livelihood*”, and to God, her giving exceeded them all (v. 44).
- ▶ Her giving reflected a heart of faith that totally depended on the Lord.
- ▶ The rich were seemingly untouched by their giving. They met all their financial obligations and funded their leisure events. They put into the temple treasury what they had leftover.

# *How Do We Give*

- ▶ Take a look at where we put our giving on our financial priority list:
  - ▶ Food
  - ▶ Shelter
  - ▶ Clothing
  - ▶ Transportation
  - ▶ Taxes
  - ▶ health care
  - ▶ Entertainment
  - ▶ Recreation
  - ▶ Savings
  - ▶ *giving to the Lord...*

# *How Do We Give*

- ▶ **1 Cor 16:1** Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: **2** On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.
- ▶ Our giving should express a devoted heart that sacrifices in honor of God and thankfulness to Him? Does it?
- ▶ Our giving reflects our trust & confidence in God --  
Expression of faith!

# *Example of David*

- ▶ **2 Samuel 24:24**...“No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.
- ▶ If our giving does not cost us something, how does it honor God and show faith in Him?

# God Approved Giving Begins in the Heart

- ▶ **2 Cor 8:1** Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: **2** that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. **3** For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, **4** imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. **5** And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

# God Approved Giving Begins in the Heart

- ▶ *in a great trial of affliction*
- ▶ *abundance of their joy*
- ▶ *deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality*
- ▶ *beyond their ability*
- ▶ *freely willing*
- ▶ *with much urgency*
- ▶ *fellowship of the ministering to the saints*
- ▶ *they first gave themselves to the Lord*
- ▶ *then to us by the will of God.*

# God Approved Giving Begins in the Heart

- ▶ Where sincere devotion to God exists, the joy of generous giving abounds!
- ▶ 2 Cor 8:7 But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.
- ▶ Our giving is a expression of our sincere desire to serve God with our whole being
- ▶ **John 4:23** But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **24** God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

# God Approved Giving Begins in the Heart - *CHRIST-LIKE HEART IS VITAL*

- ▶ **2 Cor 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
- ▶ **John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

# Things To Remember About Our Giving!

- ▶ God does not count the dollars we give; He considers the heart of the giver.
- ▶ God has ordained that we give so that gospel work is supported.
- ▶ We have received so much! But it is more blessed to give than receive!
- ▶ Give your life to God...Then you will give your possessions, too!
- ▶ **Acts 20:35** I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' ”