

Blessings of Giving

26 May 2019 PM – Proverbs 3:9-10 – Missions19 – Scott Childs

Introduction: In the latter part of the 17th century, German preacher August H. Francke founded an orphanage to care for the homeless children of Halle. One day when Francke desperately needed funds to carry on his work, a destitute Christian widow came to his door begging for a ducat, a gold coin. Because of his financial situation, he politely but regretfully told her he couldn't help her.

Disheartened, the woman began to weep. Moved by her tears, Francke asked her to wait while he went to his room to pray. After seeking God's guidance, he felt that the Holy Spirit wanted him to change his mind. So, trusting the Lord to meet his own needs, he gave her the money. Two mornings later, he received a letter of thanks from the widow. She explained that because of his generosity she had asked the Lord to shower the orphanage with gifts. That same day Francke received 12 ducats from a wealthy lady and 2 more from a friend in Sweden. He thought he had been amply rewarded for helping the widow, but he was soon informed that the orphanage was to receive 500 gold pieces from the estate of Prince Lodewyk Van Wurtenburg.

When he heard this, Francke wept in gratitude. In sacrificially providing for that needy widow, he had been enriched, not impoverished.

Transition: God can do the same for us today. This evening I want to show you **six promises from God to those who give to honour Him.**

The verses we will be looking at this evening do not teach a prosperity gospel, that if you give to God you will get rich. They simply teach that God will generously bless (if not in this life, then surely in eternity) those who cheerfully give to honour Him.

1. God promises to provide your needs abundantly

a. Proverbs 3:9-10 (Please turn there)

- 1) **Barns and winepresses were part of everyday life in Solomon's day. Grain was stored in the barns and grape juice flowed from the presses on every vineyard. When the barns were full and the presses overflowing, God was blessing.**

b. God will meet your needs

- 1) Giving to missions enables you to share in the spiritual fruit of the missionaries. You have a part!
- 2) God promises to meet needs not greeds!

📖 *The principle here is that if you give to missions He will supply all your need.*

6. God promises that sacrificial giving pleases Him

a. Hebrews 13:16 (Please turn there)

- 1) To "*communicate*" means to share with others. It is the opposite of keeping it for myself.
- 2) God realizes that sharing what we have with others is a sacrifice. Let's face it grace giving **IS** a sacrifice. It is giving away something you have and believing that God will then meet your needs.

b. Sacrificial giving pleases God

- 1) "*With such sacrifices God is well pleased!*" Why would that be?
 - a) It demonstrates our obedience.
 - b) It cares for those in need.
 - c) Humble sacrifices honour God.
- 2) If pleasing God was our only reward for giving, that should be sufficient. That is amazing. I can please my Creator by giving of what He gives me to further His work.

Conclusion: Grace giving for missions should not be a dread or a burden. If you feel agitated at the thought of giving to God's work, then God does not want your money. You keep your money and God will keep His blessings.

However, if you cheerfully give your tithe and trust God for grace to give above your tithe to missions, then I believe the principles and promises we have looked at this evening belong to you.

Song: Count Your Blessings **370** (3,4)

- 2) Note that by giving we honour the Lord.
- 3) Our “*substance*” is the wealth we have and our “*firstfruit*” is the first portion of our income.

b. Givers who honour God will not lack.

- 1) The phrase “*filled with plenty*” literally means filled with fullness or abundance. The term “*burst out*” literally means to breach and spread out as when a river overflows its banks and spreads out in a flood.
- 2) The barns of such givers will be filled with plenty and their presses will burst out. They will have an abundant full store of all essentials for life.

📖 *The principle here is that God will abundantly meet your needs if you honour Him with what you have.*

2. God promises more blessing than we can hold

a. Malachi 3:10 (Please turn there)

- 1) The temple had large rooms that served as storehouses for the grain and produce given as tithes by the people. This provided for the priests and levites (Neh 13:12-13).
- 2) God ordained tithing to provide for His work and His workers.
- 3) Those who obey God and tithe prove or test God’s ability to meet their needs.

b. You cannot out give God

- 1) God said He will open the windows of heaven for the tither. He will pour out of His heavenly window His blessings upon the tither.
- 2) That is a wonderful promise!

📖 *The principle here is that will abundantly bless those who give Him a tithe. This was never repealed.*

3. God promises to use your scoop to bless you

a. Luke 6:38 (Please turn there)

- 1) Though the context is about treating others as you want to be treated, it specifically applies to giving.
- 2) When we give generously to others, God promises that blessings will return to us.

b. God blesses us by using your scoop

- 1) God expects us to give a generous portion – *good*

measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over.

- 2) When blessing the giver God promises to use the same sized measure or scoop as the giver used.
 - a) If you use a small measure, scantily filled, that is what God will return to you.
 - b) However, if you use a big measure, abundantly filled, that is what God will return to you.

📖 *The principle is God generously blesses generosity.*

4. God promises to give grace and abundance

a. 2Corinthians 9:6-8 (Please turn there)

- 1) Sowing and reaping is part of farming and gardening. You cannot expect to get many ears of corn if you only plant two seeds. If you sow sparingly (little), you will reap little. If you sow bountifully (upon blessings, with praise), you will reap bountifully (upon blessings) (v.6).
- 2) Giving in this context was to aid those in need. This certainly applies to missions giving as well.
- 3) God desires that we give cheerfully, not with a grumble (v.7).

b. God gives grace to givers

- 1) Notice that **God** will *make all grace abound to you* (v.8). God causes His *grace* (divine help) to abound (overflow) toward those who give to honour Him.
- 2) God’s abundant grace will meet your needs so that you can do every good work He has planned for you.

📖 *The principle is if you give with cheerful blessing God will be pleased and bless you abundantly.*

5. God promises to meet all your needs

a. Philippians 4:15-19 (Please turn there)

- 1) The Philippian church had repeatedly sent gifts to help Paul and he is here thanking them. Because they gave lovingly, they pleased God and God would meet all their needs.
- 2) Verse 19 is a promise only to those who are involved in grace giving for missions.