

Good News From Chardon Church of Christ

128 Maple Ave., Chardon, Oh 44024
November 17, 2024 Issue 46

Schedule of Services

Greeting: Tom
Song Leader: Doug
Opening Hymn:
22—I Will Sing The Wondrous Story
Opening Prayer: Mark
Hymn:
120—The Solid Rock
Scripture Reading: Ryan
Mark 10:17-23
Hymn:
278—Tell Me The Story Of Jesus
Lord's Supper: Robert
Hymn:
563—Send The Light
Sermon: Tom
Invitation Hymn:
623—Why Do You Wait
Closing Hymn:
83—Somebody Did A Golden Deed
Closing Prayer: Dale

♪ ♪ O, what wondrous love I see
Freely shown for you and me,
By the One who did atone!
Just to show His matchless grace,
Jesus suffered for the race,
In Gethsemane, alone.
O, what love, matchless love,
O, what love for me was shown!
His forever I will be, For the love He
gave to me, When He suffered all alone.

CALENDAR

Nov 17—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker Tom Business Meeting
Nov 18—(b) Chelsea
Nov 19—(b) Connor
Nov 19—(b) Dillon
Nov 20—Ladies Bible Study Briar Hill
Nov 22—(b) Ray
Nov 24—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker
Dec 1—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am

Random Thoughts On Giving

Of all the avenues of worship, giving is often the one that is either overlooked (we sometimes just leave it out when we name the acts of worship) or maligned ("there they go, asking for money again"). However, the New Testament makes it clear that the early church gave as part of their weekly worship (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), and God demands that we be "cheerful givers" (2 Corinthians 9:7), so it is worth reminding ourselves of some basic things about our giving. This article may seem a bit random, but I have chosen just a couple of things that I feel need to be addressed concerning our giving.

Proportionate

There are times, when someone leads a prayer before our giving, when they might say something like this: "let us give a portion of what You have given to us." I do not want to run down anyone who says that in a prayer, and I am certainly not questioning their heart, but is that terminology Biblical?

What the Bible teaches us is not "portion" giving, but to be proportionate in our giving. We are to give "as [we] have prospered" (1 Corinthians 16:2). To illustrate, if I am blessed to earn \$1000 this week and I give \$50, but then I am blessed to earn \$5000 next week and still give \$50, I have given a "portion" both times. But have I given proportionately; that is, "as I have prospered"? Not really.

Each time I earn something financially--whether that is through a paycheck, bonus, sale of a large item, or other means--I need to prayerfully consider my giving and seek to be certain that it is in proportion to how I have been blessed that week.

Fund-Raising

When I was a much younger preacher, I would read anything I could get my hands on just to try to learn about Biblical issues and how to deal with them. I remember reading some old articles sections of books that dealt with how the church did not need to "raise money" through things like bake sales or car washes. Honestly, I remember thinking, "is this really a problem?"

It is now 2024, and I am writing about it because, yes, it was--and sadly still is--an issue. The New Testament makes it clear that the church is to be supported through the freewill giving of each member. Period. That is the only God-approved way for the local congregation to support the works in which they are involved.

Some feel that it is okay to have some type of fundraiser for some special work; maybe a mission trip or building drive. They will ask if the church should not be able to sponsor a car wash or a T-shirt sales drive to pay for the young people to go on a mission trip or to help offset the cost of a major building project? The simple answer is "no." And the reason is simply this: the New Testament gives no authority for anything other than members giving freely to the work of the church. We do not have a "product" to "sell." We have hearts that are moved to give.

PRAYER LIST

Mynda as she travels. **Caleb's** shoulder, her Family
Tom & Nina health issues, **Nina's** hand surgery and back pain, Their son-in-law **Chris** lost his job
Mark and **Debbie** as they travel. Mark's heart procedure recovery. **Debbie** shoulder surgery recovery
Mark's brother **Dale's** health
Tom's Bible Study with **Roberta, Channing,** and **Kris.**
Bonnie's health, grandsons **Devin, Dakota, Mick, Dillon, Connor & Keegan.** Daughters **Ronda** and **Renee**
Wanda's migraines; son **Allen,** sisters **Lorraine, Joyce** knee surgery, **niece Nikki** in bad accident, **niece Lorrie** heart attack. **Allen's friend** with brain bleed.
Mary, Carl and family. Keatha, Mary's sister-in-law. Mary's brother **David** with health issue, Friend **Amber** with the loss of her baby
Jim and Beverly G. with health issues
Wayne and Diane G. with health issues
Kathy's health, friends **Fran** with cancer. Her neighbor's faith
Linda's health and back pain, **Tiffany & family. Christian** with epilepsy. **Ethan** surgery recovery
Zarna and her family
Juanita, is at Briar Hill assisted living rm.100, and her family.
Ray and Barbara and their family.
Dale's health issues, headaches, His family. His **Mothers** medical procedure & diagnosis. 7 year old girl, **Lucie,** with Leukemia. Cousins, **Randal** physical & mental health, **James** in serious truck accident, **Jalen's** mental health. Uncles **Earl** with cancer, **Jimmy** who fell, **Aunt Rose** health
Brother in Christ **Johnston** medical procedure
Uncle **Jimmy** stroke.
Ray's health and his family. **Rebecca's** illness and recovery. **Steven, and Asher**
Pat recovering from a fall, and her family
Robert & Sara their **Son Michael** and Daughter **Maddie**
Friend **Hailey** serious health issues after birthing
Brenda's health, her sister **Linda** with brain cancer, sister-in-law **Linda** with breast cancer, son **Mark** surgery recovery, granddaughter **Amanda.**
Larry & family.
Mike & Debra Their friend **Carl** with cancer.
Betty's son **Randy's** health

Some turn to Acts 4:32-37 and point out where members sold land and gave the proceeds to the church. That clearly occurred, and those First Century brothers and sisters are to be commended for their great generosity. But they were not doing that as some type of "fundraiser." They willingly chose to do that as a way to have something to give freely to the work of the church. In fact, the issue with Ananias and Sapphira in chapter 5 was not that they kept back some of the money from the church. It was that they lied about it (see 5:4).

If a member of the church wishes to sell a possession and give the proceeds to the church, that is fine and commendable. But the church has no authority to organize some type of special sale or fundraiser that members feel compelled to take part in. Instead, each person is to examine their own life and give from the heart.

Conclusion

Each week, when we give, let us be certain that we are following the instruction of Jesus to worship God "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Examine your heart and give out of a place of great love and gratitude. Also, though, may we always worship, even in our giving, in "truth," following the pattern given to us through the pages of the New Testament.

Adam Faughn preaches for the
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WHERE IS IT WRITTEN?

I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Answer: Acts 20:35

Mark 10:17-23 ¹⁷ And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? ¹⁸ And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. ¹⁹ Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. ²⁰ And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. ²¹ Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. ²² And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. ²³ And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

SUNDAY: Bible Study—10:00 am, Worship—11:00 am

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