



Fairgrounds Road
C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

MESSENGER

“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – June 11, 2017

Heart to Heart...

Grasping what it means to walk with the Lord is where His love takes complete control of your thoughts and actions. One thing I have seen in those who walk by faith is they are givers! We should never guilt anyone into giving. That’s completely wrong.

“Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure – pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.” (Luke 6:38) What’s your standard of measure in giving? To give to get is not giving. That’s taking! Many promote this attitude. To give is to allow the Lord to have His place **first** showing faith He is the provider of your needs. The first thing our lives should always do is **give!** The brethren of Macedonia were in deep poverty but they gave first. They gave themselves to the Lord first and it carried into giving to help the saints in Jerusalem (II Corinthians 8). *They gave themselves to the Lord!* How could one be poorer than deep poverty? The grace of God was believed upon and His grace is what motivated them to give and the Lord met their needs! They were confident the Lord would supply their needs and they gave from faith. Are we missing something today?

Too many never think about their giving on any level. How many prepare their hearts to give on the first day of the week? From the early days, God asked His people to give first from the produce of their hands. Not second, not leftovers. Jesus said give! It’s a spiritual law that many are missing. Observe the farmers. They must plant before they harvest. They must give first. They invest in something before they receive any interest in return. Take friendships. You make friends by being a friend first. To do nothing, to give nothing results in nothing! Again, to give to get is worthless. We give because of the Lord. We trust Him to keep His promises. Too many are takers! Takers not only take from others but lay-up things for themselves. Takers manipulate! Listen to this spiritual principle: **“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”** (II Corinthians 9:6) We have read that or heard that Scripture but have you trustingly applied it? Giving is tied directly to our spiritual growth.

The cross of Christ is about giving first! Jesus laid down His life before He resurrected. Jesus died in our place first before we benefitted. We need to be a people who give. We don’t need more money! We need a faith that moves us to give first. I’ve heard it too many times: *“If I get a big raise, I’ll pay off my house and have money to give!”* That’s very unspiritual and fleshly thinking. That taking! Giving is faith in God! Giving is discipline! The more money people receive, the more money spent and borrowed. It’s not about how much you have. It’s about recognizing the promises of the great Giver have first place!

The saved are the people of God with faith in Him. God’s ways are pure and righteous. The widow who gave two copper coins in Mark 12:42-44 gave her all. What did she get in return? The attention and praise from Jesus! Jesus was aware of her out of all the others. She gave first and it moved Jesus toward her. What about us? Are you a giver? Think about it!!!

Brent