

YOKEFELLOW

January 2009

Vol. 36, No. 1

SCRIPTURAL ADDITIONS TO THE CHURCH TREASURY

Bobby Liddell

The Command Of Their God (1 Cor. 16:2)

The **day** obviously means the Lord's day (cf. Rev. 1:10), and refers to every first day of every week as the day of assembly and worship (Acts 20:7). The word the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to use, translated "order," indicates authority given by command (that Paul received by inspiration)—as to what was to be done on the first day.

The **duty** for "Every one of you," extends to every member of every congregation everywhere. The responsibility to give into the treasury is as important as any other action God has ordained as a part of corporate worship, and must be conducted with a proper attitude (John 4:24). The treasury comes from such free will offerings.

The **deposit**, "lay by him in store," commands a continuing action. Some consider "by him" to be better rendered "by itself," having reference to the gift, not the giver. In addition, "in store" refers to the church's treasury, not a storing in one's own house, but in one location with the funds at the disposal of, and under the oversight of, the local congregation.

Under, "The First Day of the Week is the Time for Laying-By in Store," brother Rex A. Turner, Sr. penned:

The Corinthians came together to eat the Lord's supper, and they came together to so eat on the first day of the week. (1 Cor. 11:33; 16:2.) Thus the natural and most convenient time for the Corinthian members to give of their material means—or lay by in store—was when they assembled on the first day of the week to eat the Lord's supper...While Paul was giving instruction relative to the bounty that was being raised from the Gentile churches for the poor saints in Judea, the case of instruction serves a precedent for all the Christians' giving for all times with respect to either special programs of the church, or for the general support of the financial program of the church. Paul had given the same instructions to the churches of Galatia that he gave to the church at Corinth.¹¹

Lipscomb and Sewell made this observation. There can be no mistake but that the command to contribute of our means to advance the cause of God on the first day of the week is as binding now as it was when Paul uttered it, and all who love the Lord well enough to esteem it a privilege to give of their means for the good of his cause will so regard it...¹²

The Calculation Of Their Gift (1 Cor. 16:2)

God, through the inspired apostle, gave the scriptural principle (1 Cor. 16:2). They were to give "as prospered" by God, according to what they had—not according to what they had not (2 Cor. 8:11-12). Their giving was to be proportionate to their prosperity, planned (predetermined; cf. 2 Cor. 9:7), and put aside, in the common treasury, for the work of the church. The plan, for the collection of their giving, was commanded by God, Who also gave the procedure for the calculation of their gift. The provision of every member, on every Sunday, was/is according to these principles: as prospered, as purposed, and as prompted by their love.

God's Word shows how scriptural additions were made to the church treasury at Corinth, and are to be made to the church treasury today. His way is right, and His way will work. As His children, we must follow His plan—if we want to be pleasing to Him, to be blessed by Him, and to have fellowship with Him now and eternally. (Continued next month.)

In this second installment, let us look at how, and from whom, the church obtains the funds necessary to accomplish its work. Paul wrote:

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

The collection was "for the saints" in Judea (1 Cor. 16:3). Gentile Christians at Corinth (and other places [cf. 2 Cor. 8:1ff]) helped through their "liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men" (2 Cor. 9:13).

The Collection Of Their Giving (1 Cor. 16:1)

Christians must understand the Savior's teaching on the blessedness of giving (Acts 20:35), and that giving proves "the sincerity of your love" (2 Cor. 8:8). As the Corinthians promised (v. 10), so they needed to perform (v. 11). Thus, Paul's pleading encouragement (2 Cor. 9:1-5). Laying by in store on the first day of the week was God's plan for the church everywhere (1 Cor. 4:17), and it is God's plan today. If this was not/is not the divinely authorized pattern, what is? Lipscomb and Sewell correctly affirmed:

The contribution, as we understand it, is a part of the worship of Christians on the first day of the week...The doing of what God has commanded to be done is worship to him, and he has commanded the contribution on the first day of the week, and to attend to it is worship.⁹

Churches of Christ need money to do their work, and God's plan is for freewill offerings as the means by which those funds are acquired. This is why we do not have car washes, bake sales, rummage sales, spaghetti suppers, etc. in order to raise funds for the work of the church.

The Lord's church is distinctive in that it does not solicit funds from non-members. Nor do the people of God compromise to receive contributions.

Churches (and MSOP, part of the work of the Forest Hill church) have refused contributions (even sizeable amounts), and rightfully so, because of strings attached, or of influence sought, or because to accept them might entail, or at least give the perception of, an ungodly fellowship. **Must** the church refuse contributions from those not members? One wrote, concerning "Church Finance," that "receiving money from their members is the only God authorized source of income the congregations of the church have," and included, in a list of unauthorized sources, receiving "volunteered financial support, from a person who is not a member, or from a place of business."¹⁰

Does this mean we are to ask each one if he is a member, and if not escort him out of the assembly, or just refuse to allow him to contribute? Neither, but if such were the case, would brethren not also have to refuse to allow him to participate in the other acts of Christian worship? Likewise, must the church refuse interest on a bank account? Or, tell a merchant it cannot accept his "church discount"? A congregation may choose to do so, but the question is must it do so, and does it sin if it does not. Could the church accept a business' offer to donate a piece of land for a building site? Could the brethren accept the contribution of an unfaithful member, while refusing the contribution of a non-member? Could a child "give" even though he is not a member? What if some think he should have obeyed the Gospel, but he has not, must he be told he no longer can contribute? Let us avoid unreasonable positions, and follow the way that is right.

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DON McWHORTER, OUTSTANDING PREACHER AND FRIEND OF MSOP, PASSES

On Monday at about 8:00 A.M. December 1, 2008, brother Don McWhorter passed away at Druid City Hospital, Tuscaloosa, AL, after a two-week stay in the hospital with pneumonia and other complications. He was age seventy-six. He had preached the gospel for nearly sixty years.

Brother McWhorter loved the truth and proclaimed it powerfully and faithfully. He and his beloved wife, Jane, served local congregations in Rossville and LaFayette, GA, Gadsden, AL, Chattanooga, TN, and Fayette, AL, where they had lived and worked for many years. Much in demand, he preached in hundreds of gospel meetings and lectureships. He wrote God's Woman: Feminine or Feminist? and, with Jane, co-authored Living Together in Knowledge. He was also an avid, excellent hunter.

Brother Don was a superb radio and television preacher, having a program called "Bible Talk" in the various localities where he labored. His current "Bible Talk" program has been broadcast consistently for over thirty years and is presented regularly on the Gospel Broadcasting Network.

All through the years, brother and sister McWhorter have been enthusiastic supporters of the Memphis School of Preaching. Each has appeared numerous times on the Annual MSOP Lectureship. On Friday, December 5th, classes of the Memphis School of Preaching were dismissed, and both the faculty and students were in attendance at the funeral for brother McWhorter, which was conducted at 1:00 P.M. at the building of the Fayette Church of Christ. A huge crowd was present, including many, many preachers.

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to sister Jane, Don's dear companion of fifty-two years, to their children, Kathy [and husband Tony Kendall] and Jack [and wife Shannon], and to their four grandchildren.

ED ALLARD (1972) DEPARTS THIS LIFE

(Concerning the passing of brother Ed Allard, Bob Winton wrote, "A Note of Personal Loss and Grief;" portions we have included as space allowed.)

On Monday afternoon, December 8, 2008, my best friend through the years, Ed Allard, slipped into eternity. I was present in September of 1960 when Ed was baptized into Christ at Biloxi, Mississippi. A little over two years later, Ed and his family were transferred to Aviano Airbase in Italy where Marie and I were stationed. We came to know and love the Allard family. We labored together for a few years in the Lord's work in Italy.

Later, we both attended Memphis School of Preaching and were in the same class, graduating in 1972....We have been in regular contact and fellowship through the intervening years....Ed was a firm defender of the faith; he was a great personal worker; he was an outstanding trainer of Christian workers; he was an able proclaimer of the gospel; he was an excellent student of the Bible. Ed's motto through the years was, "Ploughing in hope!"

...When Abner passed from earthly scenes, this tribute was given to him by David: "And the king said unto his servants, Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?" (2 Sam. 3:38). In hope of obtaining his crown of life, Ed "ploughed" in the Lord's field for almost fifty years. What the apostle Paul wrote regarding his prospects, aptly apply to my friend: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

Bob Winton

On the passing of graduates Jerry Catchim (see last month's issue) and Ed Allard, Mike McDaniel, Alumni Association President wrote: "We are thankful to God for the good these men were able to do for their Lord. We ask each alumnus of the Memphis School of Preaching to remember the families of our fellow laborers in prayer today."

SISTER PEARL BIDDLE PASSES ON

We extend our deepest sympathy to our brother, John Biddle, whose wife Pearl passed away recently (1-7-09). Brother and sister Biddle were dear friends of brother Roy J. Hearn, and have been great and beloved supporters of the School over the years. You may contact brother Biddle at 132 Ware Road, McMinnville, TN 37110.

THE JOY OF PREACHING

B. J. Clarke

There are many honorable professions, but no profession offers any greater joy and fulfillment than that of preaching. Consider some of the joys of preaching:

Preachers know the joy of turning men from vanities to the living God (Acts 14:15). We have a message of hope for those who are living in emptiness. As the song says, "There is a God! He is alive! In Him we live and we survive!" The joy of preaching is to draw men to the living God (John 6:44-45) and the gift of eternal life He offers (Rom. 6:23).

The joy of preaching is to bring glad tidings of good things to our hearers (Rom. 10:15). There is enough bad news in the world. The Gospel is good news and it is our privilege and responsibility to spread the glad tidings that a Savior came into this world to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10).

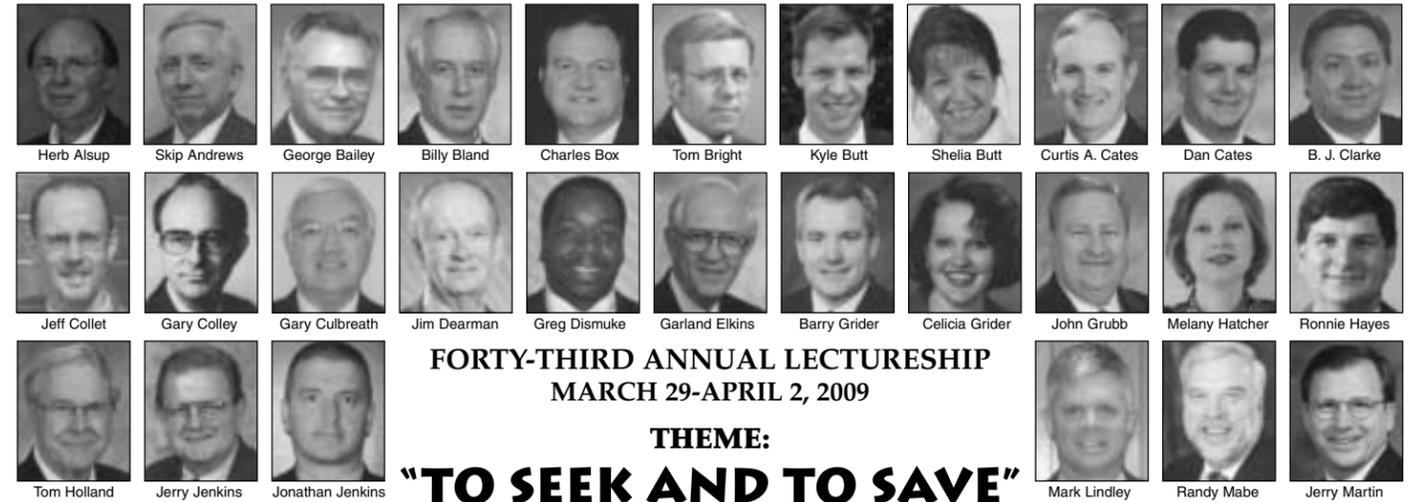
Preachers know the joy of helping to save them that believe (1 Cor. 1:21). "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God... the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). Yet, it pleased God to reveal a message of salvation through preaching (1 Cor. 1:18-25). What a joy it is to help the lost to find their way to God!

The joy of preaching is to offer peace by Jesus Christ to those who have no peace. At the home of Cornelius, Peter explained that he and other preachers had been sent into all the world "preaching peace by Jesus Christ" (Acts 10:36). The preacher is privileged to herald a message of peace in a world of turmoil. What a joy it is to preach the availability of peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1-2).

Preachers know the joy of proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ. The majority of our hearers will not be among the wealthiest people in the world, monetarily speaking. However, the joy of preaching is our opportunity to proclaim that Christ became poor so that we might be spiritually rich (2 Cor. 8:9). No wonder Paul described his preaching to the Gentiles as preaching "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8). The joy of the preacher is to explain how men and women can become joint heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17).

The joy of preaching is to help present every man perfect in Christ Jesus (Col. 1:28). The purpose of preaching is to prepare ourselves and those who hear us for the time when Christ will examine our lives upon the Day of Judgment (2 Cor. 5:10). Paul said that he taught and warned every man in an attempt to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus (Col. 1:28). If we faithfully preach God's message then, like Paul, we will be able to look expectantly to the time when we, and those converted by our preaching, will receive the crown of life (2 Tim. 4:6-8), and enter the heavenly kingdom (2 Tim. 4:18). The joy of the preacher is to give mankind a reason to anticipate the future with Christ. Thus, Paul wrote to Titus about "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Tit. 2:13).

We have a wonderful message to preach! What a joy it is to be a preacher!



FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL LECTURESHIP MARCH 29-APRIL 2, 2009 THEME: "TO SEEK AND TO SAVE" MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING 3950 Forest Hill Irene Road, Memphis, TN 38125-2560

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2009

9:30-10:20 A.M. Evangelism: The Faith To Get The Job Done.....David Sain
10:30-11:30 A.M. "To Seek And To Save"Barry Grider
5:30-6:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
6:00-7:00 P.M. World Vision For Christ.....George Bailey

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2009

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL (Forest Hill) "He That Winneth Souls" (Pro. 11:30).....Scott Cain
9:00-9:50 A.M. Evangelism: Using Publications.....Garland Elkins
10:00-10:50 A.M. LADIES* What Can A Woman Do To Seek And To Save? (Women Only).....Irene Taylor
11:00-11:50 A.M. CLASS* Working Together: Congregations And IndividualsEric Owens
11:50-1:30 P.M. LUNCH Evangelism: "In Sin City"Randy Mabe
1:30-2:20 P.M. Evangelism: Challenging DenominationalismGary McDade
2:30-3:20 P.M. LADIES* The Home Is A Mission Field (Women Only).....Carla Moore
3:30-4:15 P.M. CLASS* Why Must The Church Grow?Jerry Jenkins
4:15-6:30 P.M. Evangelism And Bible Preaching.....Greg Dismuke
6:30-7:00 P.M. "Searching For Truth"John Moore
7:00-8:00 P.M. Value Of Youth CampsRonnie Hayes
INTERMISSION CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
The Cross: The Heartbeat Of Evangelism.....Dan Winkler

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009

8:30-8:50 A.M. "Converting The Soul" (Psa. 19:7).....Gary Curry
9:00-9:50 A.M. Does Education Inhibit Evangelism?.....Curtis A. Cates
10:00-10:50 A.M. Evangelism: Using The Media.....Jim Dearman
11:00-11:50 A.M. LADIES* Evangelism Means Confrontation: How Do We Handle It? (Women Only).....Tanya Silcox
11:50-1:30 P.M. CLASS* Retired Or "Re" TireGary Colley
1:30-2:20 P.M. LADIES* Evangelism And World Wide MissionsJohn Grubb
2:30-3:20 P.M. LUNCH Evangelism And Church Discipline.....Johnie Scaggs
3:30-4:15 P.M. I Stood By His Side (Women Only).....Melany Hatcher
4:15-6:30 P.M. Evangelism: Using Campaigns.....Billy Bland
6:30-7:00 P.M. CLASS* Training Fishers Of Men.....Tim Wilkes
7:00-8:00 P.M. SEMINAR FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND SUPPORTERS (MSOP CHAPEL) "Digital Bible Study"Jonathan Jenkins
Value Of New Converts ClassGary Culbreath
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS DINNER (FELLOWSHIP HALL) CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
Light The Fire Of EvangelismTom Holland

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL (Forest Hill) "What Is A Man Profited?" (Mat. 16:26).....Donnie Vick
9:00-9:50 A.M. Why Go Ye Means Go Me.....Keith Mosher
10:00-10:50 A.M. What Must I Do To Be Saved?Mark Lindley
11:00-11:50 A.M. LADIES* Winning Souls Through Compassion (Women Only).....Jane McWhorter
11:50-1:30 P.M. CLASS* You Never Mentioned Him To Me.....David Propater
1:30-2:20 P.M. LUNCH The "Action" Of Evangelism.....Wade Webster
2:30-3:20 P.M. LADIES* Evangelism: Quality Or Quantity.....Kevin Moore
3:30-4:15 P.M. CLASS* Timothy: Training Our Children To Be Evangelistic (Women Only).....Sheila Butt
4:15-6:30 P.M. Priscilla And Aquilla: Partners In EvangelismHerb Alsup
6:30-7:00 P.M. CLASS* Evangelism And Apologetics.....Kyle Butt
7:00-8:00 P.M. Truth For The WorldSkip Andrews
Starting A New Congregation.....Jeff Collet
INTERMISSION CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
"Burning Up The Woods"B. J. Clarke

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL (Forest Hill) "They That Turn Many to Righteousness" (Dan. 12:3).....Wayne Rodgers
9:00-9:50 A.M. Evangelism: Who Will Lead?.....Jerry Martin
10:00-10:50 A.M. LADIES* Evangelism: School On The Internet.....Tom Bright
11:00-11:50 A.M. CLASS* The Value Of One (Women Only).....Vada Rice
11:50-1:30 P.M. LUNCH Did He Not Also Die For Them?Allen Webster
1:30-2:20 P.M. LADIES* Given To HospitalityMatt Shelton
1:30-2:20 P.M. LUNCH Evangelism: Big City Vs. Small Town.....Bob Prichard
2:30-3:20 P.M. LADIES* Little Things Mean A Lot (Women Only).....Cecilia Grider
3:30-4:15 P.M. CLASS* The Power Of InfluenceDan Cates
4:15-6:30 P.M. Evangelism And The Radio.....Paul Meacham
6:30-7:00 P.M. CLASS* House To House/Heart To HeartAllen Webster
7:00-8:00 P.M. Value Of Prison Ministries.....Charles Box
INTERMISSION CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
"Go Make Disciples"Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

*ALL Classes (Including Ladies Classes) Meet In Room 405 In The School Building.

