

Pledging to Give in Stewardship

We continue to consider **pledging** (promising) **to give** (to transfer in love for free) **in stewardship** (as those who manage value in trust for the true owner).

Article 3

"For Those Who Would Give, God Will Provide"

Every year on the 18th Sunday of Pentecost, the Epistle reading, (2 Corinthians 9: 6-11), helps us learn about “Pledging to Give in Stewardship.” In many parishes, this Sunday falls somewhere in the middle of pledging “prime time.”

In A.D. 54-55, the Church in Jerusalem was suffering harsh poverty. Paul was raising money for them. The church in Corinth had pledged to give a sum of money for the relief effort. Paul boasted about the Corinthian pledge to the Macedonian Christians who responded with their own pledge and substantial collections. In an example of the proper sequence for all pledging efforts, the Macedonians “... first gave themselves to the Lord and then to us by the will of God” (2 Corinthians. 8:5). However, the Corinthians were dragging their feet when it was time to fulfill their pledge.

Giving Benefits Us. So, Paul reminded the Corinthians, and reminds us, that we can never give more than God, Who gives us whatever we have to give, and Who tells us specifically we are to give back “tithes and offerings” (Malachi 3:8-10). Giving is for our own good, accruing spiritual blessings for us. Paul uses crops to teach this. “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give . . . not grudgingly or of 'compulsion,' for God loves a cheerful giver.”

God Will Provide. Paul writes, “God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work” (verse 8). God gives to us because He wants us to have to have more than enough to give to His good works! Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

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