

Theme: All of our possessions belong to God, and we are called to give generously to support God's Church and His work.

## I. Intro – Preachers of LA

- A. New reality show - claims to be benign
- B. But several of the preachers are prosperity gospel
- C. Reinforces stereotype of preachers greedy for money
- D. Can make you avoid the topic!
- E. We have one teaching on web site about giving
- F. It is important topic - so we will cover it today
- G. What is a biblical approach to possessions & giving?

## II. Brief Background and Introduction

- A. Chronicles was written to exiles to give them hope
- B. Shows a more positive picture of what Judah did right
- C. Example: nothing about David's sin with Bathsheba!
- D. David is given as a model of godly man
- E. This prayer is from near the end of Davids life
- F. Concerns what he has done with his possessions to serve God
- G. It serves a model for God's people on how to approach our own possessions and giving

## III. A Godly Attitude Towards Possessions

- A. Recognize all I have belongs to God (11,12, 14, 16)

<sup>11</sup> Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, **for everything in heaven and earth is yours**. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. <sup>12</sup>**Wealth and honor come from you**; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all... <sup>14</sup> "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? **Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand...** <sup>16</sup> **O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.** 1 Chronicles 29:11–12, 14, 16

1. Everything belongs to the Lord - 4 times!
2. God does not own part of my possessions - He owns it all!
3. This is because He gave me the power to earn it  
You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." <sup>18</sup> But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. Deuteronomy 8:17–18

- B. Be thankful for all I have been given (v13-14)

Now, **our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.** <sup>14</sup> **But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this?** Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. 1 Chronicles 29:13–14

1. David is grateful and amazed at what he has - and we should be too!

2. A lack of gratitude shows I really think I have earned what I have and deserve it
3. An ungrateful heart will never have a right relationship with possessions

C. Give a portion of what I have back to God

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should **be able to give as generously as this?** Everything comes from you, and **we have given you only what comes from your hand...** <sup>16</sup> O Lord our God, as for **all this abundance that we have provided** for building you a temple for your Holy Name, **it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.** 1 Chronicles 29:14, 16

1. David gives back to God - and so should we
2. This shows we recognize it all belongs to God
3. It also protects us from greed - and being possessed by our possessions!
4. The token principle - part reserved for God
  - a. Sabbath - time set aside to recognize life comes from God and He owns every day
  - b. Firstborn - set aside to show we know God owns all of our children
  - c. Tithe - set aside to show we know God owns all our possessions

#### IV. Biblical Principles For Giving

A. All of God's people give back to God (v14-18)

But who am I, and who are **my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this?** Everything comes from you, and **we have given you** only what comes from your hand. <sup>15</sup> We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on

earth are like a shadow, without hope. <sup>16</sup> O Lord our God, as for all **this abundance that we have provided** for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. <sup>17</sup> I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy **how willingly your people who are here have given to you.** <sup>18</sup>O Lord, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, **keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever,** and keep their hearts loyal to you. 1 Chronicles 29:14-18

1. David led the people in giving - but all gave
2. David prays this will be in the heart of God's people forever
3. God's people give back to God - only they can recognize and embrace a biblical attitude to possessions

B. We give to God to build His house - the church (16-17)

O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided **for building you a temple for your Holy Name,** it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. 1 Chronicles 29:16

1. Giving is directed where God commands - His house
2. The temple of God today is the church - this is where we give
3. Great to give to other things to - but it begins with the church
4. This is because the church is entrusted with the Gospel and the work of God.

### C. We give generously (vv14,16)

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as **generously** as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand... <sup>16</sup> O Lord our God, as for all this **abundance** that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. 1 Chronicles 29:14, 16

1. The giving is generous and abundant
2. Our giving is to be generous
3. This requires faith - and a godly attitude toward possessions

### D. We give cheerfully (v17)

I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given **willingly** and with honest intent. And now **I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.** 1 Chronicles 29:17

1. The giving is willing - not forced
2. This giving produces joy in one another
3. This is a central tenet in NT giving  
Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7
4. If we can't give generously and willingly - we do not have a godly attitude towards possessions and money

### E. The principle of the tithe

1. In OT these principles were fulfilled through the tithe

2. Not commanded in the NT - but giving must still be done by all, for the church, generous, and cheerful
3. Like the Sabbath, the outward regulation no longer in force, but the underlying principles still are
4. Even though it is not law for us, Linda and I have always tithed, and it is a great practice

## V. Applying the Word

### A. Do I have a godly attitude towards possessions?

1. Do I recognize that ALL I have belongs to God?
2. Do I treat my possessions as if I am the owner - or the steward?
3. Am I thankful to God for all I have been given?
4. Do I focus on what I have been given - or what I still want and don't have?
5. Without a godly attitude, we will be possessed by possessions!

### B. Do I practice Biblical giving?

1. Do I realize that I am called by God to give a portion back to Him?
2. Do I invest in my local church - where I am fed and cared for?
3. Do I give generously, in faith, trusting God to meet my needs?
4. Do I give cheerfully, rejoicing that I can be used to bless others?

### C. God's antidote for idol of materialism - generous giving

1. Materialism is always a great temptation - but especially in our culture
2. Generous giving is God's antidote to heal us of this disease
3. Like the Sabbath - generous giving is for our good, not God's

D. Closing prayer for grace

## Generous - A Biblical Approach To Possessions and Giving

1 Chronicles 29:10-18  
August 25, 2013  
Prayer  
Psalm 67:1-2

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, Selah <sup>2</sup> that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. Psalms 67:1-2

10 David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, O Lord, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. 11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. 12 Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. 13 Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

14 "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. 15 We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. 16 O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. 17 I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. 18 O Lord, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. 1 Chronicles 29:10-18