



“NO CHURCH EVER HAS A MONEY PROBLEM, ONLY A FAITHFULNESS PROBLEM.”

- BRIAN KLUTH, PASTOR



“We will not neglect the house of our God.”

- NEHEMIAH 10:38

And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. II CORINTHIANS 8:1-5

And He sat down opposite the treasury, and began observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums.

A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent.

Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.” MARK 12: 41-44

“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. MALACHI 3:8-10

DOUG PAGITT, A PASTOR IS QUOTED AS SAYING,

“ONE OF THE REASONS CHURCHES IN NORTH AMERICA HAVE TROUBLE GUIDING PEOPLE ABOUT MONEY IS THAT THE CHURCH'S ECONOMY IS BUILT ON CONSUMERISM.

IF CHURCHES SEE THEMSELVES AS SUPPLIERS OF RELIGIOUS GOODS AND SERVICES AND THEIR CONGREGANTS AS CONSUMERS, THEN OFFERINGS ARE 'PAYMENT.' ”

William Sprague, in his Lectures on Revival, comments that "It is amidst the effusions of the Spirit of God that people are trained to engage actively and efficiently in the great enterprise of Christian benevolence." Giving for support of the ministry and the work of the gospel is yet another indication of whether or not God is at work." (Orr, *Revival*)

PRAYER

Dearest Lord, teach me (us) to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not seek for rest, to labor and not seek reward, save that of knowing that I do your will.

Adaptation, St. Ignatius of Loyola, 1491-1556

Practice:

- What are the economics of your church now?
- What are some things that you can do to improve the situation?
- Give your money.