

Pleasant Valley Weekly

Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding. (Psalm 47 : 6—7)

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Issue 33

Bankrupting the Church

The state of the economy vs Church finances

What role should the economy play on the finances of the Church, more specifically our contribution. Look at what our brethren did in Acts 2 and Acts 4 and ask yourself, “Why do we have a record of what they did? For an example to follow, or just for an “at-a-boy” for them?”

The Church is not a business, it can't sell more for less and make money. The Church is not the government; it can't tax people more, print more money, or go into debt. The Church runs on the benevolence of its members.

A bad economy should only play a role on what we feel is “necessary” for us to live our comfortable lives. There are many brethren out their truly suffering, and yet the Church is hamstrung by those of us who still have our jobs and our health yet are giving less, blaming the economy, while still living our lives to the fullest. This causes the Church to go “bankrupt”.

I understand that everything costs more today than it did yesterday. But why is it that the first cut we make is in our contribution to the Lord, and not in other areas of our lives?

Bankrupting the Church

- * The Doe family budget

Why should the economy hamstrung the Church?

- * I Corinthians 16 : 1-3

Collection for the saints, 1st day of the week, Lay something aside, Storing up as He has prospered you

- * II Corinthians 9 : 6-8

Give as he has purposed in his heart, Not grudgingly, Not of necessity, God loves a cheerful giver

- * What are the Elements of Giving

- * As each of us has purposed in our hearts

To have purposed in one's heart means that we take the amount chosen in front of anything else.

- * Storing up as we have prospered

To lay by in store means to appoint it and store it away so that it is not used for anything it is not appointed for.

- * We give not grudgingly nor out of necessity

To not give grudgingly nor out of necessity, means that once what we purpose to give we have done it cheerfully and willingly.

- * We need to clearly understand what God desires for us, why He desires it, and it means to give with a purpose, as He has prospered us, giving willingly and cheerfully.