

Bankrupting the Church

The state of the economy vs church finances

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The Doe family budget

Why does the Doe family continue to reduce their contribution?

What role, if any, should have the economy played on their contribution?

Why should the Church be hamstrung because of a bad economy?

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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 purposes in his heart

Not grudgingly

Not of necessity

God loves a cheerful giver

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Elements of giving

First Day of the Week

As each of us have purposed

Storing up as we have prospered

We give not grudgingly nor out of necessity

To the collection of the saints

If the Doe family purposed in their hearts to give \$100.00 each week, why then did they continue to drop their contribution?

They did not truly purpose, lay by in store, give willingly and purposefully, and misunderstood why they were giving.

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As each of us have purposed

‘proaireomai’ – to choose for oneself before another thing,
that is, (by implication) to propose (intend)

‘pro’ - A primary preposition; “fore”, that is, in front of, prior

‘aihreomai’ - to take for oneself

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

Does purposed mean, what ever is in our wallets at the time the plate passed?

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Storing up as we have prospered (lay in store - KJV)

lay (KJV) 'tithemi' – to place, appoint

in store (KJV) 'thesaurizo' – to amass or reserve

'thesauros' – deposit

To lay by instore, means that once we have taken the purposed amount in front of anything else, we appoint it and store it away so that it is not used for anything it is not appointed for.

How much has God prospered you?

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We give not grudgingly nor out of necessity

‘ek’ ‘ex’ – preposition denoting origin meaning from or out of

‘lupe’ – sadness or grief; affliction

‘anagke’ – constraint; by circumstances or law or duty

To not give grudgingly nor out of necessity, means that once what we purpose to give we have done it cheerfully and willingly. And when we have set it aside, we do not use it because we aren't supposed to, but because we do not want to.

Do you give, because you are supposed to, or you want to?

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Differences from the Old Law

God required a tenth (tithe)

This took the “purpose” out of the gift, it was mandatory

Exodus 12 : 1 – 5

“...without blemish...”

Each and every time (45) God wanted “off the top”
when it came to sacrificing.

Similarities to the Old Law

God required the best

Exodus 12 : 1 – 5

“...without blemish...”

Malachi 1 : 7 – 8

“...offer the blind...the lame and sick...”

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Why do we continually cut first our contribution and not our life?

Miss-use of the word “necessity”

What role, if any, should the economy play on our contribution?

None – II Corinthians 8 : 1 – 4

“...beyond their ability...freely willingly...”

Why should the Church be hamstrung because of a bad economy?

It shouldn't

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How can I help, what can I do?

II Corinthians 8 : 13 – 14

“I do not mean...you burdened...”

It is not required of you to take a second job in order to help the Church.

It is not required of you to stop paying payments on a home or car to help the Church.

It is required that you give up your excess in life so that the Church can do what is necessary for it to do.