

# The Work of the “*Local*” Church

- *Tend the flock of God which is among you...*
- **Evangelism**
- Into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature and every nation
- **Edification**
- Equip the saints for the work of ministry to the building up of the body of Christ.
- **Benevolence:**
- Taking care of the needs of the saints, not only in our local congregation, but anywhere else we have the opportunity.
- How does God want us to fund all of these things?

# The Strength God Supplies

- Under Jesus as head, doing the works God prepared beforehand we reflect **only** God's manifold wisdom:
- *If anyone **speaks**, let him speak **as the oracles of God**. If anyone ministers, let him do it **as with the strength which God supplies**, that in all things **God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ, 1Pet. 4:10-11*
- Every thought/word/idea must be from oracles of God
- If it's not in God's word – Don't Speak/Propose it!
- All ministry (doing good works God prepared) must be done with the ability/strength God supplies.
- If God doesn't give a way to do it ... We dare *not go beyond what is written* to do it.

# Giving in Spirit and Truth

- *On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.  
1Cor. 16:2-3*
- Because this is the same assembly in which the Lord's Supper, singing, praying, and preaching are observed it is an act of worship.
- Therefore it is bound by all the other commands for worship.

# Worship

*But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." Jn. 4:23-24*

God is **SEEKING** genuine worshippers.

Because God is Spirit we must bow to His will

True Worship **MUST** be in spirit and truth.

The strength God supplies for financing the work of the church is the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week contribution.

# God has placed all funding in Giving

- 1Cor 16:1-2 We are to give as prospered
- 2Cor 8:2-5 With **Abundance & Liberality**
- 2Cor 9:6-7 Give **Bountifully** as purposed
- Rom 12:8 He who gives, with **liberality**
- There is nothing beyond this.
- Anything more would be to go in the way of Cain and no longer have faith because there is no scripture.
- Regardless of how constraining or limiting some think that is, it is the strength which God supplied!

**It Has Always Been This Way!**

# Giving Prior to the Law

- Sacrifices and Offerings
  - Cain & Abel Gen. 4
  - Noah Gen 8:20
  - Abraham Gen 12:7-8; 22:9;
  - Isaac Gen 26:25
  - Jacob Gen 33:20; 35:1-3, 7

# Giving Under the Law of Moses

- Did God come up with a new way of bringing offerings that would fund the work He wanted done?
- *And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord.*  
*Lev. 27:30-31*

# God's Funding of the Priesthood

- *all the holy gifts of the children of Israel; I have given them as a portion to you and your sons, as an ordinance forever. 9 every offering of theirs, **every grain offering** and **every sin offering** and **every trespass offering** which they render to Me, shall be most holy for you and your sons. ... whatever **first ripe fruit** is in their land, which they bring to the Lord, shall be yours. **Every devoted thing (Vowed)** in Israel shall be yours. ... **everything that first opens the womb** of all flesh, which they bring to the Lord, whether man or beast, shall be yours; Num 18:8-20*



# God's Funding for the Levites

- *"Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting. Num. 18:21-22*
- *For the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer up as a heave offering to the Lord, I have given to the Levites as an inheritance; therefore I have said to them, 'Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.'" Num. 18:24*

# Was there a Secondary Plan?

- *Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In **tithes** and **offerings**. 9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this, "Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. Mal 3:8-10*
- What Israel hadn't done could only be fixed one way
- They had to repent and do it properly.

# What Israel Really Gave

- Israel's commands:

- Freewill offerings for priests. Num. 18:1-2; 8-14
- Plus Sin offerings, Vows, 1<sup>st</sup> Fruits, 1<sup>st</sup> Born
- Plus 10 % for Levites Dt 14:22-23; Num 18:20-21
- Plus free will offerings for
  - The Tabernacle Ex 35:4-5; 21-29; 36:4-7
  - Temple I Chr. 29:6-9; Second Building Hag. 1
- Plus 10% tax for kingdom. I Kings 8:11-18

- This was the strength God supplied to Israel.
- Everything they needed to do was funded by the freewill offerings of His people.

# Strength God Supplied: Tabernacle

- *Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, that they **bring Me an offering**. From **everyone who gives it willingly with his heart** you shall take My offering. Ex 25:1-3*
- *'Take from among you an offering to the Lord. **Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord: Ex 35:5***
- *Then **everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing**, and they brought the Lord's offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments. Ex 35:21-22*

# Strength God Supplied: Tabernacle

- *The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the Lord, all the men and women whose hearts were willing to bring material for all kinds of work which the Lord, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done. Ex 35:29*

# Strength God Supplied: Temple

- *Then the leaders of the fathers' houses, leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king's work, offered willingly. 1 Chron 29:6-7*
- *And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, into the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. 9 Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the Lord; and King David also rejoiced greatly. 1 Chron 29:8-9*

# Strength God Supplied: Temple

- *"Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. 11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, And You are exalted as head over all. 12 Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all. ... 14 But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You. For we are aliens and pilgrims before You, As were all our fathers; Our days on earth are as a shadow, And without hope. 16 O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a house for Your holy name is from Your hand, and is all Your own.*

# It was always the same

- Abraham after victory gave 10% Gen 14:20
- Jacob in vowing to God—10% Gen 28:20-22
- Israel commanded to give:
  - Freewill offerings for priests. Num 18:1-2; 8-14
    - All sacrifices and offerings; all the firstfruits on Pentecost; Every vow; all firstborn animals; etc.
  - **Plus** Tithe for Levites Dt 14:22-23; Num 18:20-21
  - **Plus** free will offerings when there was a need:
    - The Tabernacle Ex 35:4-5; 21-29; 36:4-7
    - Temple | Chr 29:6-9; 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Haggai 1-2
    - Restoring the Temple – Hezekiah & Josiah



# NT Giving

- Special Offerings:
- Benevolence
- Acts 2 & 4
- 1Cor 16:1-3
- 2Cor 8-9

# The Strength God Supplies

- If anyone *speaks*, let him speak *as the oracles of God*. If anyone *ministers*, let him do it *as with the strength which God supplies*, that in all things *God may be glorified* through Jesus Christ, 1Pet. 4:10-11
- Every thought/word/idea must be from oracles of God
- If it's not in God's word – Don't Speak/Propose it!
- God's Word is Clear and Consistent.
- He only wants the freewill offerings of His people.
- In the NT He has given us the same commands.

# All Funding for the “Local” Church

- *On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.  
1Cor. 16:2-3*
- Not just a command for worship.
- A mandate for all the funding for any local church that wants to do the will of God.