

## THE LOCAL CHURCH

Our Services: Offerings Unto The Lord

**Foundation-Offerings:** Are the scriptural? Why? How? What's the result of it supposed to be?

### I. Are offerings in church scriptural?

- A. The word tells us to bring an offering when we come into God's place-It's scriptural to bring an offering when you come to church-**Ps96:8**-Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering (gift, present, donation) and come into his courts (enclosure, residence of a king); **1Ch16:29**-Give unto the Lord the glory due his name: bring an offering, and come before Him worship the Lord in the beauty of His holiness
- B. God tells His people to bring Him an offering-**Ex25:2**-The Lord spoke unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that gives it willingly with his heart you shall take my offering and this is the offering you shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass
- C. God tells His people to bring a tenth of their income to Him-**Mal3:10**-Bring you all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house and prove me know herewith, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it
- D. Offerings in the New Testament-We see offerings going towards the ministry and offerings helping people in need-**1Co16:1**-Concerning the collection (money gathered) for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do you. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come; **2Co9:1**-Now about the offering that is to be made for the saints... **Ph4:15**-Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and abound: I am full having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable and well pleasing to God. **Lk8:1**-It came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him, And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others which ministered unto him of their substance
- E. Honor the Lord with your substance-There's no scripture that gives you the right to decide you're going to give your time as a replacement of your substance; You're supposed to do both-**Pr3:9**-Honor the Lord with your substance (wealth, riches); **Rm12:1-AC**-I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.

### II. What are the offerings for?

- A. Offerings are used for the work of the Lord-**Ex35:29**-The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the Lord had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses
  1. It's scriptural to receiving offerings from the people of God to finance the work of God-**Ex25:2**-The Lord spoke unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that gives it willingly with his heart you shall take my offering and this is the offering you shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass...**8** And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may well amongst them; **Ex36:3**-They received of Moses all the offering, which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, to make it withal. And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning
  2. God's work in the Earth is not one dimensional and so the offerings are used for many different things-God commands different ministries to do different kinds of work so the money will be spent differently throughout the Body of Christ, depending on the work God has called that ministry to do

B. Our offerings finance the work of the Kingdom of God-Mat3:10-Bring you all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat (Provision-Ps111:5-AMP-Food and provision) in mine house (place, dwelling, household)

1. God's house needs provision-It cost money to do the work of the Lord (Have church, preach, help people)
2. One way God gets the provision into His Kingdom is through His people-God's was expecting them to give towards His work-Hag1:2-This people say, the time is not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built...Is it time for you, O you, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie in waste

C. A portion of the offerings goes to the ministers

1. It has been ordained by God that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel-They have scriptural right to make their living in ministry-1Co9:4-AC-4 Have we not the right to our food and drink [at the expense of the churches]? 5Have we not the right also to take along with us a Christian sister as wife, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas (Peter)? 6Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from doing manual labor for a livelihood [in order to go about the work of the ministry]? 7[Consider this:] What soldier at any time serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat any of the fruit of it? Who tends a flock and does not partake of the milk of the flock? 8Do I say this only on human authority and as a man reasons? Does not the Law endorse the same principle? 9For in the Law of Moses it is written, You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the corn. Is it [only] for oxen that God cares? 10Or does He speak certainly and entirely for our sakes? [Assuredly] it is written for our sakes, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher ought to thresh in expectation of partaking of the harvest. 11 If we have sown [the seed of] spiritual good among you, [is it too] much if we reap from your material benefits? 12If others share in this rightful claim upon you, do not we [have a still better and greater claim]? However, we have never exercised this right, but we endure everything rather than put a hindrance in the way [of the spread] of the good news (the Gospel) of Christ. 13Do you not know that those men who are employed in the services of the temple get their food from the temple? And that those who tend the altar share with the altar [in the offerings brought]? 14 [On the same principle] the Lord directed that those who publish the good news (the Gospel) should live by the Gospel. KJ-Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel
2. According to the Bible, those that minister the Word to you, you should support-Gal6:6-KJ-Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teaches in all God things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap; AC-Let him who receives instruction in the Word of God share all good things with his teacher [contributing to his support]
3. Ministry and preaching the Word is a job worthy of pay-1Tm5:17-Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor (and of adequate financial support) especially they who labor in the word and doctrine (labor faithfully in preaching and teaching). For the scripture says, You shall not muzzle the ox that treads out the corn. And the laborer is worthy of his reward.

### III. Who are you giving to? You are giving to the Lord

A. You are giving to the Lord-God sees your offering as an offering to Him-Ex25:2-The Lord spoke unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering Ex35:29-The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord

1. A man collects the offering, but it's to the Lord-You might be dropping it in the bucket, but it's to the Lord-Dt26:2-That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth...and shalt put it in a basket and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there 3 And thou shalt go unto the priest that shall be in those days...4 And the priest shall take the basket out of thine hand, and set it down before the altar of the LORD thy God - (42 times Offering unto the Lord)
2. Who you're not giving to-You're not giving to your church-That's the place God put His name; Many think I'm giving to my church; That's not how God sees it, that's not how it is; You're not giving to your pastors-Dt26:2-Go to the place [the sanctuary] which the Lord your God has chosen as the abiding place for His name and His presence

B. You're offering is something that is between you and the Lord

1. Recognizing who you're giving to changes everything about your giving-It affects why, how, what you give
2. People get sloppy with the offering because they fail to recognize who they are giving to-The enemy has gotten it in peoples minds that we give to the church so the church can pay its bills because it's easy to give little, give nothing or give in sloppy way when you're giving to a man or an organization

C. What you do in the offering is what you're doing to Him personally-God didn't say you robbed the church or the preacher because the offering was to God-**Mal3:8**-*Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me. But you say, wherein have we robbed you? In tithes and offerings*

#### IV. What are we doing when we're giving offerings? Are we just paying the churches bills? Are we just giving God our money so we're not cursed?

A. When we are giving our offering we are worshipping-You give your offering in love, adoration, respect and acknowledgement of His goodness in your life-**Dt26:1**-*And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possess it, and dwellest therein; <sup>2</sup> That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there. <sup>3</sup> And thou shalt go unto the priest that shall be in those days, and say unto him, I profess this day unto the LORD thy God, that I am come unto the country which the LORD sware unto our fathers for to give us. <sup>4</sup> And the priest shall take the basket out of thine hand, and set it down before the altar of the LORD thy God. <sup>5</sup> And thou shalt speak and say before the LORD thy God, A Syrian ready to perish was my father (Abraham), and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous: <sup>6</sup> And the Egyptians evil entreated us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage (We were in bondage-Hb2:15,Rm8:15): <sup>7</sup> And when we cried unto the LORD God of our fathers, the LORD heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labor, and our oppression (Rm10:8-We cried out to the Lord): <sup>8</sup> And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders (Col1:12): <sup>9</sup> And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that flows with milk and honey (Eph2:6,Rm8:14,17). <sup>10</sup> And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God: <sup>11</sup> And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you. <sup>12</sup> When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled; <sup>13</sup> Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them. <sup>14</sup> I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away ought thereof for any unclean use, nor given ought thereof for the dead: but I have hearkened to the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that thou hast commanded me. <sup>15</sup> Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven, and bless thy people Israel, and the land which thou hast given us, as you swore unto our fathers, a land that flows with milk and honey*

1. 10-When we are giving our offering we are worshipping-*Worship*-Bow down before a superior in homage (respect, reverence, honor, worship, praise) to royalty; Do reverence
2. 11-When we are giving our offering we are rejoicing-In everything good thing that God has done
3. 10-In our response to the goodness of God in our lives words are not enough-He's been so good to me and I'm so thankful for what He's done that my heart boils over with love and words cease to be adequate to express that so as a token of my love, honor, and gratitude I bring an offering
  - a. We give in gratitude, in appreciation and in acknowledgment of God's goodness in our lives-If it's good it came from God (Js1:17)-Many didn't eat this week, are living on the street, are tormented in their minds, living in darkness and oppression, but not me
  - b. Abraham's offering was an acknowledgment of the goodness of God-**Gen14:20**-*And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into your hand. And he gave tithes of all*
4. Do I have to give?-The real question is why don't I want to? You either want to acknowledge God's goodness in your life and worship Him with your offering or you don't and if you don't why don't you want to
  - a. Abraham tithed because He wanted to-He didn't have to, nobody was making Him, He wanted to

B. When we give our offering we are honoring God-We are demonstrating that He, His Kingdom, His things are important to us-**Ps96:8**-*Give unto the Lord the glory (weight, honor, to make weighty) due unto his name bring an offering (gift) and come into his courts (enclosure); YL-Ascribe to Jehovah the honor of His name, lift up a present and come into his courts; TL-Give him the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come to worship him; 1Ch16:29-Give unto the Lord the glory (honor, reverence) due his name: bring an offering, and come before Him worship the Lord in the beauty of His holiness*

1. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name-Glory-Weight, honor, reverence, riches; *Give unto the Lord glory* simply means to honor Him and treat Him like He is important, like He is something to you
  2. People think the way we give glory to the Lord is through our words, worship and praise-That's only one way we honor the Lord; This verse says give glory/honor to Him by bringing and offering
  3. One of the main ways we honor God is with our wealth-Pr3:9-Honor the Lord with your substance (wealth and riches), and with the first fruits of all your increase
  4. Our offerings demonstrate our honor-We give in acknowledgement and appreciation for the Lord and what He's done in our lives (we value Him and what's He's done for us); We give demonstrating that His Kingdom, His work on the Earth is important to us and we value it
    - a. Time & Money-Show me what you do with your time & money and I'll show you what's important to you
  5. The chief expression of love is giving-Jn3:16-For God so loved the world that He gave
    - a. To love something simply means you value it, it's important to you-If we love God, His Kingdom, His churches and ministries, what He's accomplishing through them in peoples' lives we will give
  6. When it comes to honoring God words are not enough-Put your money where your mouth is-If you really do honor God, if you really do value Him and His things we will see it in you honoring him with your substance; **Mt15:8**-*This people draws nigh unto me with their mouth, and honors me with their lips; but their heart is far from me*
- C. When we give our offering we are ministering to the Lord-Lk8:1-It came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him, And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others which ministered unto him of their substance
1. Our offerings can please the Lord and bless Him-When they gave of their substance to Jesus because they believed in Him and in what He was doing in the lives of people it blessed Him-**Ph4:18**-*But I have all, and abound: I am full having received of Epaphroditus (Epafurditus) the things which were sent from you, an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable and well pleasing to God; Hb13:16-ISV-Do not neglect to do good and to be generous, for God is pleased with such sacrifices; Gen4:4-CEV-The Lord was pleased with Abel and his offering*
  2. God testified of Abel's offering-God was so pleased with it that He told others look at my boy, look at what he did, look at how much my offerings and my things mean to Him-**Hb11:4**-*By faith Able offered unto God a more excellent (greater quality, quantity, superior) sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: by it he being dead yet speaks*
  3. It's not just the offering that ministers to Him, it's the honor in the offering-It's the fact that you love Him enough and He means so much to you that you give