

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT GIVING.

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An address delivered at Missionary Conferences, held in St. John's Baptist Church, Montreal, and also presented in Grace Church, and published by request.

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him." In the New Testament we are under the law of love, and are requested to give liberally, guided by the example of him, who was rich, yet for our sakes became poor that we through His poverty might be made rich.

In the next place the Scriptures teach that our giving should be voluntarily. The principle of taxing man for the work of God is entirely foreign to the teaching of the Bible.

The poor are not asked to contribute as much as the rich. For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what a man hath, not according to what he hath not. We should labor not so much for an increase of contributions as for an increase of the number of contributors.

In the next place we find the Bible teaches proportionate giving, namely, that a certain proportion of our income should be sacredly set apart for the Lord's work.

What proportion each should give is often difficult to satisfactorily determine. In many cases the circumstances are such that it must be left an enlightened conscience to settle.

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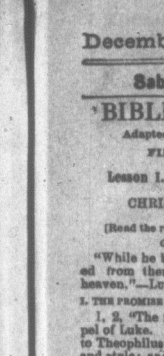
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