

HWMR: Material Offering and the Lord's Move Today (Week 5)

Day 1

- 2 Corinthians 8:7* - But just as you abound in everything, in faith and in word and in knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love in you from us, abound in this grace also.
- 2 Corinthians 8:13-15* - For it is not that to others there would be relief, yet to you affliction, But it is out of equality; at the present time your abundance for their lack that their abundance also may be for your lack, so that there may be equality; As it is written, "He who gathered much had no excess, and he who gathered little had no lack."

God Balancing the Supply Among His People

- Exodus 16:19-20 says, "Moses said to them, Let no man leave any of it until the morning. But they did not listen to Moses, and some men left part of it until the morning; and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was indignant with them."
 - In the case of those who gathered an excess of manna, perhaps wanting to store it up for days and weeks to come, God caused the excess to be taken away.
- The divine way is that those who gathered little had no lack and those who gathered much had nothing over.
- In 2 Corinthians 8 Paul likens our giving to the needy ones to the gathering of manna.
 - What Paul says indicates that our giving is a gathering.
 - Paul's word at least implies that as children of God, we should not be greedy.
- If the money does not disappear in this generation, it will disappear in the following generation or certainly in the third generation.
- God's mighty, sovereign hand will be active to practice a heavenly balancing of the wealth among His people.
- No matter how wise you may be in the handling of money, God is wiser.
- Deep in His heart God desires that His people be balanced in the daily supply.
- You should remember that whether or not you willingly share with others, eventually, the outcome will be the same.
 - The result will be that he who gathers little has no lack and that he who gathers much has nothing over.

(Life-Study of Second Corinthians, chapter 48)

Day 2

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-7* - But take note of this: He who sows sparingly shall also sparingly reap; and he who sows with blessings shall also with blessings reap; Each one as he has purposed in his heart, not out of sorrow or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- Proverbs 11:24* - There is one who scatters and increases yet more, / And there is one who withholds what is appropriate but ends up only in want.

The Christian Way of Financial Management

- The Christian way of managing money is **not to hold on to money**.
- The **more** you give **away**, the **more** you will **have**.
- God will **not** entrust Himself to those who **hold on** to their money and who **will not give**. The more you give, the more God will give to you.

Sowing with One's Money

- 2 Corinthians 9:6 *"He who sows sparingly shall also sparingly reap; and he who sows with blessings shall also with blessings reap."*
 - When Christians give, they are not throwing their money away; they are **sowing**.
- The Corinthians gave to those in Jerusalem, remembering their needs, and Paul said that it was a **kind of sowing**, **not** a kind of throwing away.
- The **more** a person **holds on** to his money, the **less** he will **have**.
- A new believer should **learn to sow**, so that when he has needs, he can reap what he has sown. You cannot reap what you have not sown.

(Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), chapter 28)

Day 3

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 - Now He who bountifully supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and cause the fruits of your righteousness to increase. You in everything are being enriched unto all liberality, which works out through us thanksgiving to God,

Sowing with Blessings

- According to 9:6, *he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly, and he who sows with blessings shall also reap with blessings*.
 - To sow with blessings is to **give to others**.
 - If we sow with blessings to others, we shall **reap** with blessings from God.

Giving and Sowing

- When we sow with blessings to others, we shall reap with blessings from God. Furthermore, the **harvest will always far surpass** the amount of seed sown.
- We all need to sow, to give. The **more** we **give**, the **more** we shall **reap**.
- However, we should **not** do this in a **superstitious way** for the purpose of gaining riches for ourselves.
- If we sow with blessings to others, then, also **according to natural law**, we shall reap with blessings from God to us.
- The Lord **will always honor** the natural law He has ordained.

Becoming Factors of Thanksgiving to God

- We should **sow more** and in turn **reap more**.
 - The goal is **not** to make ourselves rich.
 - The result is the **abounding of thanksgivings to God**.

(Life-Study of Second Corinthians, chapter 48)

Day 4

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not store up for yourselves treasures on the earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves dig through and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not dig through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:31-33 - Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we be clothed? For all these things the Gentiles are anxiously seeking. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Laying Up Treasures Not on Earth but in Heaven

- In Matthew 6:19-20 the King decrees that the kingdom people should **not lay up for themselves treasures on earth**, but **treasures in heaven**.
 - To lay up treasures in heaven is to **give** material things to the poor and to **care** for the needy saints and for the Lord's servants.

Not Being Anxious About Eating, Drinking, and Clothing

- Matthew 6:31 "*Therefore **do not be anxious**, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we be clothed?*"
 - Apparently, in this section of the constitution, the Lord is speaking about the dealing of the kingdom people with material riches.
 - Actually, He is **dealing** with the matter of **anxiety**.
- Anxiety is the gear that **makes the world move**.
 - If there were **no anxiety** regarding our living, **no one would do anything**
- By touching our anxiety, the Lord touches the **gear of human life**.
- There is **no anxiety in the life of God**.
- When the Lord brought the children of Israel into the good land, they all had to work on the land. That was their duty.
 - To do their duty was right and necessary, but to have **anxiety was wrong**.
 - Likewise, we must do our duty today, but **do it without being anxious** about our living.
- The reason you are so **reluctant** to give to others is your **anxiety**.
 - If you had no anxiety, you would not care for the material things.
- After a number of years, many of our young people will have college degrees.
 - Your duty is to earn your degree and then to make riches.
 - But do not seek to become a millionaire. Instead, **be a good giver according to the life and nature of your heavenly Father**.

(Elders' Training, Book 8: The Life Pulse of the Lord's Present Move, chapter 9)

Day 5

1 Timothy 6:17-19 - Charge those who are rich in the present age not to be high-minded, nor to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches but on God, who affords us all things richly for our enjoyment; To do good, to be rich in good works, to be ready to distribute, to be ones willing to share; Laying away for themselves a good foundation as a treasure for the future, that they may lay hold on that which is really life.

THE OFFERING OF MATERIAL RICHES

- In his **fallen condition**, man fell into the darkness of **acknowledging only material riches** and not God, of **trusting only in material riches** and not in God, and even of **serving material riches**, taking material riches as God, and **allowing material riches to replace God**.

- God's enemy, Satan the Devil, exploited the fallen condition of men to come in and **deceive** men to worship idols, such as the god of wealth, for riches and gain.
 - For this reason, the Lord Jesus told us that one "**cannot serve God and mammon**".
- We have **received God's mercy** and the **Lord's salvation**, which **delivered** us from the authority of Satan and **turned** us to God.

God's Giving

- 1 Timothy 6:17 "*Charge those who are rich in the present age not to be high-minded, nor to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches but **on God**, who affords us all things richly for our enjoyment.*"
 - This word exposes Satan's plot to **delude** men, showing us that all the material things and enjoyment in our living apparently come from the uncertain riches, but they actually come from **God's giving**.
- 3 John 2 "*Beloved, concerning all things I wish that you may **prosper** and be in health, even as your soul prospers.*"
 - The prosperity here refers to **material abundance and prosperity**, pointing out that the material enjoyment of those who are saved and belong to God comes from God as a result of **His prospering** our material things.
 - In this matter of material supply, unlike the worldly people who trust only in their own abilities, we have to learn to **set our hope in God**.
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19 "*Charge those who are rich in the present age not to be high-minded, nor to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches but **on God**, who affords us all things richly for our enjoyment; To **do good**, to be rich in good works, to be ready to **distribute**, to be ones **willing** to share; Laying away for themselves a good foundation as a treasure for the future, that they may lay hold on that which is really life.*"
 - This is the apostle's charge, which is simply the **Lord's charge to us**.
 - To do good and to be rich in good works refer to **distributing** the surplus from one's living to the needy ones.
 - Doing this will enable one to lay hold on, that is, to possess, to use, and to enjoy, that which is really life, the **eternal life of God**.

(Elders' Training, Book 8: The Life Pulse of the Lord's Present Move, chapter 9)

Day 6

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 - Now concerning the collection for the saints, just as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also do. On the first day of the week each one of you should lay aside in store to himself whatever he may have been prospered, that no collections be made when I come.

The Apostle's Direction

- **All of fallen mankind** are under the domination of mammon and material possessions.
- Then the believers needed **grace** to **overcome** the power of mammon and material things and to **release** them from Satan's domination for an offering to the Lord to fulfill His purpose.
- **Resurrection life** is the supply for the believers to live such a life, a life trusting in God, not in treasures of material possessions, a life not for today but for the future, not for this age but for the coming age. A **life that overthrows** the usurpation of temporal and uncertain riches.
- The extent to which we are in the divine administration and for the divine administration is determined by **how we care** for money and material possessions.
 - If we use our money in a **worldly way**, then no matter what we may say about resurrection, we are **not** truly in God's administration.
 - If we all would be **faithful** to live for God's administration in caring for money and material matters, there would be no financial needs in the recovery.
- If we truly **live in resurrection**, **we shall not have a problem** with money or material things.

(Life-study of First Corinthians, chapter 69)