

CHURCH IN REGINA

Local Announcements

1. Love Feast and Combined Praising Meeting—Dec. 31
2. Winter Training Msg 12 Open Mtg—Dec. 31 at 5pm

Conferences & Training

1. Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference—Feb.14-16, Anaheim, CA
2. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Apr.4-6, Anaheim, CA
3. Memorial Day Blending Conference—May 23-26, Phoenix, AZ
4. Summer Training—June 30-July 5, Anaheim, CA
5. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—TBD
6. Thanksgiving Blending Conference—Nov.27-30, Indianapolis, IN
7. Winter Training—Dec.22-28, Anaheim, CA

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Material Offering—Week 3

The Character of the Lord's Worker—Towards Money

Let us come to...Paul's attitude towards money. In Acts 20 he said..., "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing" (v. 33). This is a matter of motive. **He did not covet anything.** In his work for the Lord, he was able to boast that he never coveted anyone's possessions. He had no thought concerning anyone's gold, silver, or clothing. This is the first statement. Then he said, "You yourselves know that these hands have ministered to my needs and to those who are with me" (v. 34). This should be the common attitude of all servants of God. We must covet no man's silver or gold or clothing. Others' possessions are their own, and we have no desire for them. They can keep what they have. At the same time, we **work to supply our own need** and those of our co-workers. This does not mean that a worker of the Lord has no right to exercise his right in the gospel. But it does mean that a worker of the Lord should view the gospel as such a serious and immense responsibility that he would rather offer his hands and his money to the work. This should be his desire before the Lord. If at all possible, his hands should be working.

In 2 Cor. 11:7 he said, "Or did I commit a sin, abasing myself that you might be exalted, because I announced the gospel of God to you free of charge?" He continued... "And when I was present with you and lacked, I was not a burden to anyone; for the brothers who came from Macedonia filled up my lack, and in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and will keep myself... Paul did not categorically deny all gifts, but in Achaia **it was a matter of testimony**... Paul did not want to give them an occasion for criticism. He said that he announced the gospel of God to them free of charge, that he was not a burden to them, not even when he lacked. He kept himself from being burdensome to them, and would continue to keep himself in this way. He would not allow himself to become a burden to them. This does not mean that he did not love them, because what he did, he would continue to do. But he acted in this way to cut off the opportunity of those desiring an opportunity, and to shut their mouths. This is the attitude of a worker towards money.

Paul told us...also **how he worked with his two hands to supply the needs of his co-workers.** This shows us **the principle of giving.** Paul said, "These hands have ministered to my needs and to those who are with me" (Acts 20:34). **No worker will be depleted by giving.** If we keep all that we have received and only make provisions for ourselves, we do not know the meaning of the work of a minister. If there is little offering from the purses of the co-workers, something is wrong. If a worker can only receive, that is, if his faith is exercised only to the point of his receiving, but does not extend to his giving, his function is limited. Brothers and sisters, **our spiritual future has much to do with our attitude towards money. The worst attitude we can take is to gather only for ourselves and to do everything for ourselves.** It seems a hard task to ask the Levites to offer. Yet the Levites have just as much responsibility to tithe as everyone else. It is true that the Levites had no inheritance in all the cities; they sojourned among the twelve tribes and lived by the altar. Some Levites might have been tempted to say, "I live by the altar. What do I have to give?" But God said that all the Levites should receive tithing and should also tithe. This stops all the servants of God from saying, "I have given up everything. Do I still have to offer from the meager income I receive?" If our eyes are always on our own needs, we will end up in financial straits and will not be able to supply the needs of our co-workers. We have to learn to give. We must be able to supply all of our brothers and sisters. If we keep money in our hands, no matter how little it may be, and if, at the same time, we expect God to constantly work on the other brothers and sisters, we will find that God does just the opposite; He will not entrust His money to our hands.

Paul's words in 2 Cor. 6:10 are wonderful: "As poor yet enriching many." Here was a brother who really knew God. Seemingly he was poor, yet surprisingly he enriched many. Brothers and sisters, this is our way... Even in extreme poverty we have to learn to give. If we want to receive more, we have to give more. **The more we are able to give, the more we are able to receive. This is a spiritual principle. Often when we are in lack, we should give more, for as soon as the money that we have goes, the Lord's supply comes...** We should not count how much is left in our hands. The Lord said, "Give, and it will be given to you" (Luke 6:38). This is God's law. We cannot annul God's law. The Christian way of stewardship is different from that of the world. **The world gains by saving; we gain by giving. We may be poor, but we can enrich others** (Excerpts from The Character of the Lord's Worker, CWWN, vol. 52).