

**Heart of Purpose Sunday 2018**  
**January 14, 2018**  
by C Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Welcome to **Heart of Purpose Sunday, 2018**.

**Heart of Purpose Sunday** has been a practice here at Lighthouse for many years now.

Normally we will do this in the month of December as we prepare ourselves for the coming New Year. This year, however, there has been so much going on that, well, here we are and it's January already.

Thankfully, the Lord did not tell us when we must do this, He just said make sure we do it.

For me, I look forward to the Sunday when the Lord says it is time to preach on "Heart of Purpose".

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

7 **Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give;** not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

8 And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

There are certain Bible subjects that most Christians, certainly preachers enjoy more than others; kind of their pet subjects.

I know that Brother Ray back there loves to study and talk about prophecy, as many other preachers do.

My pet Bible subjects are much less complex.

I love to see people saved; I have spent the last forty years studying and practicing and working to improve the art of leading others to Jesus; thankfully, many of you are the product of that work.

My other pet Bible subject is giving. Something I love almost as much as seeing people saved is seeing God's people prosper.

Many Christian's lives are financial disasters. This ought not to be so.

The Bible is filled with financial principles; likely more than just about any other subject you can name. Those who learn and practice those principles will always prosper in them.

Many lost people prosper financially because they are practicing Biblical principles and they often don't even know they are doing it.

For the believer, generous and cheerful giving is a substantial factor in their financial success.

It is my opinion that any Christian who understands the principles and the promises associated with giving will have no trouble becoming a cheerful and generous giver.

Some of you have, years ago, answered the challenge I will set before us today and you have become generous and cheerful givers.

How's that working out for you? Maybe I should just let some of them just come up here and tell us themselves? Ok, maybe not.

We just read that ["God is able to make all grace abound toward you."](#)

Last week we read

[Ephesians 3:20](#) Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

This along with dozens of other promises just like these.

Maybe I can get a witness this morning:

Those of you that have become cheerful givers this morning, has God lived up to His promises to you? What say ye?

This morning I want to lay out before you some of the most important principles of giving and then each of us will purpose in our heart what we will give to the Lord for the coming new year.

First:

## **I. The choice you will make today is a New Testament commandment.**

### *A. What are these New Testament commandments?*

1. Jesus came to earth, He died in our place, He rose from the dead and is become the propitiation (the atonement - the complete and final payment) for our sins.
2. In doing so, Jesus removed us from under the Old Testament law.

3. He replaced our subjection to the law by giving us new commandments that we actually CAN keep; not to get to heaven, but to live a life of joy and fruitfulness.

*B. Jesus commanded His Church to teach these commandments.*

1. **Matthew 28:18-20**

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

2. **1 John 2:3-5**

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep **his commandments**.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

3. There are many New Testament commandments:

- a. To love one another;
- b. To be baptized;
- c. To faithfully attend Church;
- d. To worship;
- e. To serve;
- f. ...and there are many more.

4. One of these New Testament commandments is that we **purpose in our heart what we shall give**.

5. Today we who know the Lord will obey this commandment.

It is essential that you understand:

**II. The Purpose.**

*A. It's not about money!*

1. Please get through your head that God doesn't need your money.

2. Know also that the Church doesn't need your money.

3. You can purpose in your heart today that you will give exactly nothing in 2018...and Lighthouse Baptist Church will grow and prosper just fine without you.

4. There are plenty of others, I for one, who will gladly make up the slack as needed; we have done it before and stand ready if needed to do it again.

*B. It is also not about sacrifice.*

1. I know the Bible teaches us to make sacrifices for the Lord's glory.

2. **Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*

3. **Hebrews 13:15-16**

15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

4. **1 Peter 2:5** Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

5. However, I fail to see tithing and regular giving as a sacrifice: here's why:

a. First of all it is God that gave you what you now have.

**James 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

b. Secondly, God is going to replace what you give with substantially more than you gave.

**Luke 6:38** Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

c. And third, He is going to do it in proportion.

**2 Corinthians 9:6**

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

6. How is that a sacrifice? See what I mean?

7. Ok, it is not about money and it is not about sacrifice...What is it about?

*C. For God it is about honor.*

1. **Malachi 1:6** A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master: if then I *be* a father, **where is mine honour?** and if I *be* a master, where *is* my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you...

2. **Proverbs 3:9 Honour the LORD** with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

*D. For you it is about faith.*

1. You are either going to believe God or you are not.
2. The things I am teaching you are not scriptures twisted out of context.
3. These principles are basic and simple to understand; this is not a matter of agreeing or disagreeing with the preacher.
4. Simply stated, those who believe God act on what God tells us to do; and...
5. Those who won't act on what God tells us to do simply do not believe God.

We understand the purpose, so now what is:

**III. The Plan.** (Have ushers hand out card.)

*A. God's plan for giving is always proportionate giving.*

1. Proportionate giving is by percentage; not by some specified dollar amount.
2. You do not know your financial future; you cannot say, "I'm going to give \$100 a week or \$500 a week or \$1000 a week"...because you do not know what you will receive to be able to give from.
3. God may test you for a while and you may have very little income from which to give.
4. But you can say, "I will give 10% or 15% or 20%"; whatever your faith leads you to do.

*B. Our example is the tithe.*

1. What is a tithe?

The word tithe simply means tenth; a tithe is 10%.

2. The tithe (the **first** tenth of your income) is not yours to keep; it belongs to God already.

3. **Leviticus 27:30** 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 unto the LORD.**

4. We all know that to keep the tithe for yourself is robbing God.

5. **Malachi 3:8** Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? **In tithes and offerings.**

6. Your choice to tithe is not really a choice at all. You can either bring it and place it in God's storehouse (which in our day is your Church) and receive the promised blessings that come with it, or God will simply come and collect it; and probably more besides.

*C. So here is what we do. (Hand out the card).*

1. On your card you will find first of all a commitment to tithe.

2. Then choose a percentage above your tithe that will be your gift to the Lord in 2018.

3. Then starting this week; every time you get paid; step up and do what you purposed in your heart to do this day.

4. I recommend putting the card on your refrigerator to remind you.

5. Usually the first time you do this it's a little scary; but after you see God do what He does in response, it will never be scary again.

## **Conclusion:**

**The Apostle Paul taught the Churches to give.**

**Unlike the TV preachers of today, Paul taught this for their benefit, not his own.**

## **Philippians 4:15-19**

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 ye only.

16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

17 Not because I desire a gift: but **I desire fruit that may abound to your account.**

18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

**There might be someone here today who is thinking; “I’m just not going to fill out a card.”**

**You need to understand, to not participate, to fail to choose...is a choice in itself.**

**It is a choice that also carries promises from God; they are just not promises from God that you are going to like when God carries them out.**