

June 1981

Monarch



Yes. You are right. This Monarch is about money. But it is a little different this time. Scores of times we have written to you about Bible Prophecy in regard to the coming failure of the money system. We have also written articles for your benefit to show you how to profit from the coming money failure. Articles about investments, savings, borrowing, pricing, etc. have been mailed.

This Monarch is about the relationship of money to the ministry. Remember that money is not the root of all evil. The love of money is. The Bible calls money a defense; but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it".(Ecclesiastes 7:12)

Our present goal is to develop wisdom about knowing how to handle our money in regard to God's works. We expect that wisdom to bring us life.

Q. Since you don't ask for money-how does it come? Since tithing is not taught in the N.T.-what should our present principles or guidelines be?

A. "Let the elders who perform the duties of their office well be considered worthy of double honor and of adequate financial support, especially who who labor faithfully in preaching and teaching." (I Tim. 5:17 Amplified).

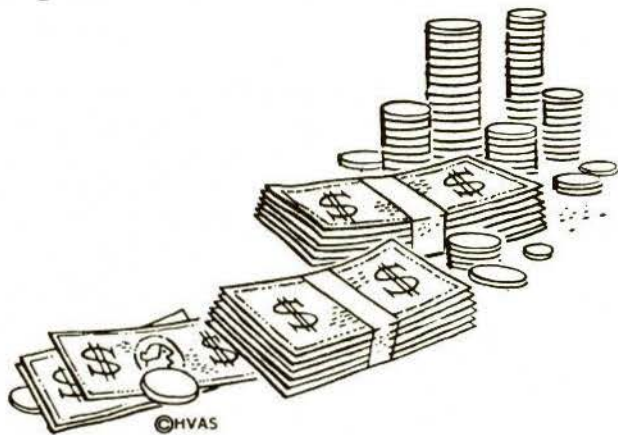
The man under Christian instruction should be willing to contribute toward the livelihood of his teacher (Gal. 6:6 Phillips).

As Christians mature because of Bible teaching, they shoulder the burden of our financial support voluntarily. The Holy Spirit directs them in their giving. That way no one is put under a heavy burden because of a strong personality pushing for money, as is so often the case. There is nothing wrong with a basic principle or guideline of 10%, but when churches and structured Christian societies impose it as a standard or a law, then they are reverting back to the gospel of the circumcision (mixture of law and grace) rather than progressing to the gospel of the uncircumcision. Our goal for our students is that they be led by the Holy Spirit into the gospel of the uncircumcision (pure grace). (Gal.2:7)

In the O.T. the tithe included such services as police, army, court, welfare, fire protection, etc. which are not provided by present churches. Also, the person bringing the tithe was commanded to eat of his own tithe animal. The parallel today should include private purchase of good religious material such as books, records and tapes with a portion of the tithe for personal use. Realize, of course, that most religious

practitioners want to receive your whole tithe so they ignore the Bible patterns.

Also, many Christians purchase groceries at the A & P and take their money across the street to pay the bill at Food Giant. My boss taught with parables like that 2000 years ago. The meaning of this parable is that many Christians receive spiritual food from one ministry but send or take money to another.



Rather than asking you for money and trying to impress you with our needs, I often ask my Heavenly Father to impress our students to provide for this ministry in harmony with the scriptures and with His plans and purposes. God has controlled our expansion and direction and paid our bills this way.

The exact answer to your question is that many Christians send us letters with gifts of money as the Holy Spirit leads them.

You are right, I have not asked for money in 13 full years of fulltime public ministry. It is wonderful to minister to responsible and mature people and watch them respond to our temporal needs by supplying us with money. In the old realm, lifting an offering was like pulling teeth sometimes.

However, I have never said that I would never ask for an offering. If the Holy Spirit leads in that direction; I will. If He doesn't; I won't.

"If we have sown to you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ."
(I Cor. 9:11-12)

MANAGING YOUR OFFERING

Malachi 3:8-10 says, "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me. But you say, where in have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse for ye have robbed me... Bring all your tithes into the STOREHOUSE, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now if I will not pour out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."



What does this mean? It means:

1. The ministry will falter if there are no offerings coming in.
2. Pay your offerings where you're being fed (storehouse)..(Spiritually)
3. If you manage your offering wisely (take it to the storehouse) the Lord will see that you get a blessing you can't contain.

Please pardon the following personal example, but it is the best way we know to demonstrate the point.

The David Ebaugh Bible School receives money from:

1. Offerings and gifts
2. Honorariums for speaking engagements.
3. Sale of tapes
4. Sale of books



The last two categories (tapes and books) have more costs involved than the income produces, so from a financial standpoint they do not support this ministry. In fact, the finances received from gifts and honorariums are used to pay some of the costs of providing tapes and books. Therefore, the sale of tapes and books does not feed and dress my family. It may be that some day the sale of tapes and books will supply additional money so that we can further expand services we offer to our students.

But on the other hand, there would be very few speaking engagements and consequently, few offerings and gifts without having books and tapes in the field. Actually, books and tapes allow this message to contact far more people than I could from only making personal appearances, and in that sense they contribute more financially than can be properly measured. While it is true that I did decide to cut back on the publication of the Monarch in the past because we ran out of money, we pray that we will never again have to decide to cut back on any of our services that we provide to our students.



We have never had to ask for money. It has always come by God's grace and your sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit. We believe though that it is correct and proper for us to teach on the subject of giving money.

Some Christians attend a certain church whether they're being fed there or not, because it is traditional in their family and that is where they pay their tithes. According to the Bible, this is NOT the best thing to do.

It is not wise to go to a restaurant you know you don't like, pay for a meal you can hardly swallow and then go to someone else's house and thrive on some food that an aunt, uncle or friend is providing for free.



Why isn't it wise? Because that restaurant that makes the pabulum and unpalatable food is going to thrive and grow while the person providing you the good food is going to suffer and may even go out of business and not be able to provide for you at all. You can't shop at a grocery store where you like the products and then go pay your bill at the grocery store across the street.

Your offering should be going to the storehouse (grocery) (Malachi 3:8-10), that provides your food. The word "storehouse" means grainery or place where one purchases food. In the spiritual realm you should be giving to the ministry that is giving to you. Then that storehouse (ministry) can obtain even better products and provide you with even more superior nourishment (spiritually).

There are many prosperous and thriving denominations and churches in our country and yet Christianity is starving for deeper truth. The majority of Christians are existing on baby pabulum. Why?

Because, when a new ministry with a life giving, challenging message comes along, it is invariably much more interested in truth than in money. But it soon finds it can't survive without money.



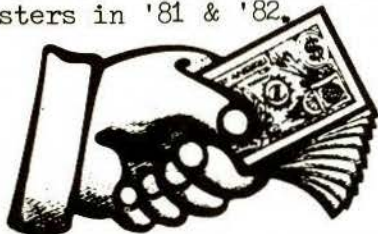
The stresses involved in keeping a ministry alive, a ministry that is feeding many but receiving little in return, becomes too great a burden.

When this happens a number of things may occur.

1. The ministry folds,
2. The ministry becomes more and more involved in fund raising efforts and seldom raises its level of truth.
3. The ministry changes its direction emphasis.
4. God speaks to the hearts of enough people enjoying the fruits of the ministry and they support it and help it grow.

We have received letters from many famous national ministries that indicate that they are having financial problems. Each letter appeals to the four itemized thoughts listed above.

There is ample evidence to show that all radio, TV and publishing ministries in the USA had serious financial problems. So what's new! Everyone had financial problems. Most everyone has had to pay \$1.30 for a gallon of gas that used to cost 30¢ a gallon. That extra dollar that used to go as an offering to the ministry now goes for gas to get to work. As a result, we predict that most local churches will hold their own (because people still give a tithe) but we predict the closing of many radio, TV and publishing ministries in 1981 & 1982. We also predict that a lot of desperate letters are going to be written by ministers in '81 & '82.



The Bible says that an elder who rules well, especially one who labors in the word, should receive double honor. (I Tim. 5:17). The word "honor" here is TIME in the Greek and literally is translated "price." When a speaker receives an honorarium, it means he was paid a certain amount of money. When a person honors his bills, it means he pays them. To give someone double honor does not mean to shake their hand twice as long. It means to pay them double the amount that would

ordinarily be paid.

So, if you are being blessed, encouraged or fed by a minister or ministry that is obviously laboring in the word and teaching you things you can't find anywhere else, then that minister is worthy of receiving double what you would normally give. The ox should not be muzzled while he's treading the grain. (I Tim. 5:18)

If the ministry is providing something good it should grow and flourish and be shared with others. In order for a ministry to grow it needs money. If it is not providing anything worth while it should be let alone to die its own death.

Your spiritual storehouse may be Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, Pat Robertson, Kenneth Hager, Bill Britton, or a combination of many ministries. If they're providing food for you then a portion of your gifts should go to them and the one who is providing the most should receive the most.

Manage your gifts wisely and we believe God will not only bless you but He will use your gift to bless the whole Christian community.

This ministry does not exist apart from your gifts.

"If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?" (I Cor. 9:11)

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