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Please be a sport! Don't throw this away! If you don't read it, please send it back! Thank you.

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ONE MILLION FREE MONARCHS

Last December some fortunate friend read the 1,000,000th MONARCH; it could have been you. No. We don't have 1,000,000 students - we have paid for more than 1,000,000 postage stamps over many years. It would have been nice if I could have sent you a prize with your 1,000,000th MONARCH. I hope that you agree that the MONARCH message was prize enough. That milestone could never have been reached without the loving gifts of money from Christian believers like you. Thank you.

GIVE TO GET

In the past I taught that Christians should "ONLY" give offerings of money because of their love for JESUS. The word "ONLY" is the problem.

LOVE FOR JESUS AND GIVE TO GET

Now I want to bring a balance between 1) a motivation of giving based on a love for JESUS and 2) a motivation of giving to get. Now I see that both are right. Both have a place in the life of a believer. This Bible study is on how to get something back for the gifts that you give to the Christian ministry, assuming that you are first motivated by a love for JESUS.

THE LOVE OF MONEY

Whenever we study the subject of money we should start with - money is NOT the root of all evil - the LOVE of money is. "For the LOVE of money is the root of all evil." (I Tim. 6:10)

A BANK ACCOUNT IN HEAVEN

Sometime ago a kindly Georgia preacher took me aside and asked me what I thought about this scripture: "Now ye Philippians know ... no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only ... Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account... But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:17-19) I checked it out in the Greek (Strong's Concordance) and it pretty much means what it says. But, it's pretty hard to understand what it says without some Bible study.

ABOUND

The word "abound" really means "super- abound," according to Strong's. "Abound" means that our GOD will make your account very large; and "super-abound" is like adding super interest to it.

Paul was talking about the several offerings of money that the Philippians had sent to him over the years. He did not consider the offerings to be a GIFT. He thought that the offerings were FRUIT (not a gift). He said, "I desire FRUIT that may abound to your account." In other words he wanted FRUIT for his work in the gospel, but he desired that his FRUIT would be credited to the account of the giver of the money offerings (not Paul's account).

WHAT KIND OF FRUIT?

Another place Paul said that he desired (wanted) FRUIT. When he planted SPIRITUAL seed, he expected it to produce TEMPORAL CARNAL FRUIT (money) for himself. "If by any means ... I might have a prosperous journey ... that I may impart some SPIRITUAL gift ... that I may be comforted ... that I might have some FRUIT among you also." (Rom.1:10-13)

And what kind of FRUIT was Paul expecting as a result of the planting of his SPIRITUAL seed? "The gentiles have been made partakers of their SPIRITUAL things, their duty is to also minister in CARNAL things... I have sealed to them this FRUIT." (Rom. 15:27-28) Paul thought that planting SPIRITUAL seed would produce CARNAL FRUIT (money).

He was more forceful when he said the same thought again, "If we have sown unto you SPIRITUAL things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your CARNAL things?" So, the FRUIT of a SPIRITUAL ministry should be a CARNAL harvest (money).

But in Phil. 4:17-19 Paul made it clear that he wanted the FRUIT money to be credited to the account of the giving believer (not to Paul's account).

As a Bible teacher in the Body of Christ, I thought that I would receive some personal benefit (like money) that was the FRUIT of my own labors in Bible study and teaching, like Paul did. (1 Cor. 9:11, Rom. 15:26-28) But that is not what Phil. 4:17-19 says. Here it says that Paul wanted the believers who support the ministry with their FRUIT money to be the ones who will receive a FRUIT money ACCOUNT balance.

GOD KEEPS YOUR ACCOUNT

Assuming Paul's desire (prayer) was answered, our GOD is keeping an ACCOUNT for the benefit of every believer who gives FRUIT money to support the ministry. The only reason, that I know of, for keeping an ACCOUNT and adding interest to it, is so that it can later be used to benefit the one who owns the ACCOUNT - the giver of FRUIT money to the ministry, i.e., "FRUIT (money) that may abound to YOUR ACCOUNT." (Phil. 4:17)

That's like a savings account, from which you might want to make a withdrawal someday. The deposit could be something like money, love, time or prayer and the withdrawal could be whatever you need at the moment like money, healing, joy, love or peace.

LITTLE FRUIT - LITTLE MONEY

That also means that it is very important to every believer who sends FRUIT money to support a minister - that the minister is a good effective minister of the gospel. In other words, if the minister doesn't plant much SPIRITUAL seed, his supporters won't receive much FRUIT money in their own ACCOUNT.

Many years ago, while I was working as an engineer, I did not understand that. I was giving a "double tithe" to my church. But, I knew that our church was not planting much SPIRITUAL seed. I justified my own giving to my church (in my own mind) by telling myself, "I'm giving as unto the Lord - not to my unfruitful church. If God wants to use my money to make this place fruitful, then He can." Now, I see that I was not fully informed. An informed believer gives to a ministry that produces FRUIT by planting SPIRITUAL seed because he knows that the promise to keep an ACCOUNT is to the believer who gives to a FRUITFUL ministry.

NO DEPOSIT - NO WITHDRAWAL?

If you need a heavenly ACCOUNT to draw on, the scriptures teach you to give FRUIT money to the ministry to open your ACCOUNT. And every time you give - your ACCOUNT balance increases. And our GOD will also add interest to your account, too. Our GOD is not stingy.

To those who have established such an ACCOUNT, Paul said, "My God shall supply all YOUR need according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:19) That promise is NOT to every Christian who comes down the road. No, Paul qualified the promise "to supply all YOUR need" as being for those believers who supplied the needs of the ministry. (Phil. 4:17) Wow! That makes some of our GOD's promises to us conditional on our own conduct and actions. That supports the idea of cause and effect as applied to giving money to the ministry. In other words, when you give - you'll get.

DESTITUTE OR ABOUND?

Some preachers erroneously emphasize the word "NEED" in, "My God shall supply all your NEED." (Phil. 4:19) They mistakenly point out that God supplies your "NEEDS," not your "WANTS." They use "NEED" as a form of "DESTITUTION." That's not all the way right. "NEED" is CHREIA, 5532 in Strong's, which is also translated "BUSINESS" as in Acts 6:3. "Look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this BUSINESS" (same CHREIA, 5532). Those people were not "DESTITUTE." There is no violence to the scripture if it is translated, "My God shall supply all your BUSINESS according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:19) That removes the idea of "DESTITUTE" and supplies the idea of "ABUNDANCE." Abundance is a whole lot more in harmony with, "His RICHES in GLORY in CHRIST JESUS." In other words, the supply is according to His RICHES - not according to your business (or needs).

WORD FAITH

When Paul said, "I desire that FRUIT may abide to your ACCOUNT" (Phil. 4:17), he used the Greek word "LOGOS" where the translators rendered the word "ACCOUNT." Technically, there is nothing wrong with translating "LOGOS" into "ACCOUNT." But, more times than not, "LOGOS" means "WORD." And that leads us to the favorite text of the new WORD and/or FAITH churches. "He shall have whatsoever he SAITH." (Mark 11:22-26) We can easily see that the FRUIT of Paul's ministry is added to the WORD (ACCOUNT) of the believer who provided FRUIT

money for Paul's ministry. So, the FRUIT in the ACCOUNT may not be money. It could easily be increased FAITH. The power behind the WORD of the believer is directly proportional to the gift pattern of the believer. It shouldn't be a big surprise to find that the believers who are big in WORD - FAITH (to move mountains) are the very same ones who are big in giving FRUIT money to the ministry.

BIG OR BIGGER?

JESUS said, "It is more blessed to give than receive." (Acts 20:35) Now we know why. The giver receives the credit to his own ACCOUNT. But, don't misunderstand. The receiver of the gift also receives a big blessing, too. But JESUS said that there is a bigger blessing in giving.

SOME PEOPLE LIVE ON BORROWED MONEY

There is another side to that coin. Many scriptures, combined with our own personal experience, demonstrate that our GOD is so good that He often blesses people who have never lifted their finger to help anybody - especially a preacher. Uninformed and immature non-giving Christians are not necessarily stingy people. I believe they will become generous as they grow up and learn the truth of SPIRIT led giving of money.

MORE THAN MONEY

"Give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38) The context that is just ahead of that passage says, "Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven." The more forgiveness that you give, the more forgiveness you'll get. But, the passage also has to do with money and/or mammon. For instance, "take away thy cloke" (v 29) and "take away thy goods" (v 30). We are to give "forgiveness" and we see that money is also included.

Does the Bible tell us about benefits other than money that may also be added to our ACCOUNT? Yes. It says "God shall supply ALL your need." (Phil. 4:19) For some people, that's a lot more than just money. Sure, it includes money. Everyone needs that. But it also includes other things that are too good for money to buy like love, peace, faith, healing, etc. When a believer needs peace, money is no substitute. When a believer needs love, money is trash. When a Christian needs wisdom, knowledge, discerning of spirits, faith, healings, miracles, tongues, interpretation or prophecy, then money just can

not substitute. Sure, money buys some things, but not everything. The best things in life are not for sale.

An informed believer can "lock in" to the promise that he shall have ALL his needs met in every realm by becoming a giver. That does not take away from the idea that our GOD is also good to uninformed and immature Christians who are not yet givers. Our GOD does also bless them, too.

HOW MUCH MONEY?

How much money should be given? In the Old Testament, the tithe (10% of increase) was the rule. Many preachers would like to prove that it's also the rule in the New Testament but they can't find a chapter and verse. The basic rule for New Testament Christian giving is: "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:6-7, 15)

Some people sow a little seed (give a little money) and erroneously expect a big harvest. But, that's not the Bible pattern. Give a little, reap a little. Give a lot, reap a lot - is the right Bible pattern. (2 Cor. 9:6-7)

AMOUNT OR MOTIVE?

JESUS made it plain that the widow who gave her last two pennies really gave more than the rich man who gave a thousand dollars. (Luke 21:1-4) So the amount of the gift is an important factor, but the motivation for the gift is even more important. Poor people can give more than rich people, if they want to.

DO NOT GIVE OUT OF NECESSITY

Paul warned us to NOT give out of "NECESSITY." The word "NECESSITY" is more properly translated "CONSTRAINT OR DISTRESS" (as per STRONGS, 318). "So let him give; not grudgingly or of CONSTRAINT or DISTRESS (necessity)." (2 Cor. 9:7)

Nearly every Christian TV program that I have watched this year erroneously appealed to CONSTRAINT or DISTRESS (necessity). Shall we condemn the preachers? I'm not so sure. I have noticed that, on the whole, more Christians respond to a cry baby than to a successful producer. Since givers respond to cry babies - what do you think most preachers will turn into? I'm not sure that we should blame the whole bad situation on the preachers only.

I have a hard time with the following common announcements which are based on "CONSTRAINT OR DISTRESS." "If I don't hear from you this very week - I will have to go off of the air." "If you don't send me your money right now then this crippled (or starving) orphan child will not have any food." To me, that sounds like people are being baited to give out of CONSTRAINT OR DISTRESS (necessity).

PAY THE BIBLE TEACHER

Does the Bible tell us to send money to our Bible teacher? The J. B. Phillips translation of the New Testament renders the answer this way, "The man under Christian instruction should be

willing to contribute toward the livelihood of his teacher." (Galatians 6:6)

Think about it - many believers must have thought that the MONARCH messages were important because they supplied the FRUIT money for us to send over 1,000,000 free MONARCHS. And what good did they do? Only you can tell if a new or confirmed Bible truth made a change in you for the better. But, multiplied 1,000's of believers' letters are on file here to say that they did receive benefit. And you surely must have noticed that many big name preachers are now using my theological ideas - and my jokes - on TV.

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No matter which subjects you decide to explore, most every one of our students would tell you, "You'll change for the better." Some say that these lessons do lay bare many mysteries and the enigma of our present day Christian walk. I hope you'll find it so.

For those students who are new to our material and approach to Christian living, I strongly recommend the following material for you to look into and perhaps study. Even well-seasoned Bible students do discover new helpful ideas from these unique messages. I think that every Bible student, new or seasoned, could benefit from the following material.

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Prayer in the right name of GOD seems to work better. Why? You have several names that you go by. You act differently at times. So does GOD. When people use your name, you respond differently than when they say, "Hey you!" So does GOD. Jesus told us to call Him Daddy.

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No one has ever been able to find any scriptures to support the erroneous "rapture before tribulation idea." You must be able to overcome, not escape.

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