

## The Grave Danger of Religiosity, Part I

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Brandon Phillips / General

The King and His Glory / Religion; Self-love; Self-Righteousness / Matthew 6:1–18

In Matthew 6:1-18, Jesus gives three illustrative warnings depicting the grave danger of self-aggrandizing righteousness (or religiosity).

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## Pre-sermon Comments

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

[1 Timothy 6:10](#) (LSB) <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils, and some by aspiring to it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Money and possession are like sea water. The more you drink, the thirstier you get. ~ **Anonymous**

## Discussion Questions

The sermon quotes Thomas Jefferson's famous line about unalienable rights. How do these values align with or differ from the core teachings of Christianity?

The sermon mentions that our attitude towards money reveals whether we truly worship the Lord or act as hypocrites. How can we examine and adjust our attitudes to ensure they align with true worship?

Reflect on a time when your attitude towards money either strengthened or hindered your faith. What did you learn from that experience?

## Sermon Text

[Matthew 6:1-4](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> “Beware of doing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. <sup>2</sup> “Therefore, when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> “But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

## Introduction to our Text

[1 Kings 17:12-14](#) (LSB) <sup>12</sup> But she said, “As Yahweh your God lives, I have no bread, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; and behold, I am gathering a few sticks that I may go in and prepare for me and my son, that we may eat it and die.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from it first and bring *it* out to me, and afterward you may make *one* for yourself and for your son. <sup>14</sup> “For thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, ‘The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty, until the day that Yahweh sends rain on the face of the earth.’”

[Revelation 3:17-18](#) (LSB) <sup>17</sup> ‘Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and pitiable and poor and blind and naked. <sup>18</sup> I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness will not be manifested; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.

[1 Timothy 6:10](#) (LSB) <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils, and some by aspiring to it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

## Discussion Questions

How do you see the pursuit of wealth influencing people's values and priorities today?

In what ways can the church guard against the idolization of money?

How would you feel if your church suddenly received a massive donation? What potential benefits and challenges do you foresee?

What lessons can be learned from the story of the pastor who was asked to cut his pay despite the church's financial stability?

How should churches prioritize their spending to reflect their commitment to preaching and teaching God's word?

How does the story of Elijah and the widow at Zarephath encourage you in times of financial uncertainty?

In what ways has God provided for your needs or the needs of your church in unexpected ways?

How do you understand Paul's warning in [1 Timothy 6:10](#) about the love of money?

What are some practical ways to avoid the pitfalls of loving money too much, both individually and as a church?

How can we balance the necessity of money for living and functioning with a heart that remains focused on God?

## Series Review

[Matthew 5:3](#) (LSB) <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[Matthew 5:11-12](#) (LSB) <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup>

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

[Matthew 5:13–14](#) (LSB) <sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out to be trampled under foot by men. <sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

[Matthew 5:20](#) (LSB) <sup>20</sup> “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

## Proposition and Outline

### Section Outline

In [Matthew 6:1](#), Jesus introduces three illustrative warnings depicting the grave danger of self-aggrandizing righteousness (or religiosity).

He warns all His disciples (including us) to beware of:

- **[Self-Centered Donations \(Matt 6:2-4\) \[today’s sermon\]](#)**
- Self-Centered Devotions ([Matt 6:5-15](#)) [future sermon]
- Self-Centered Deprivation ([Matt 6:16-18](#)) [future Sermon]

Martyn Lloyd-Jones: If we analyse the religious life of a man we find that it can be divided into three sections and three sections only: the way I do my almsgiving, the nature of my prayer life and contact with God, and the way in which I should mortify the flesh.

### Sermon Outline

In [Matt 6:2-4](#), Jesus warns against self-centered giving. He commands you to give:

- Straight from your heart ([Matt 6:2](#))
- Sans the hubbub ([Matt 6:2](#))

- Squarely under your hat ([Matt 6:3-4](#))

## Section Introduction ([Matt 6:1](#))

[Matthew 5:1](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

### The righteousness of God vs. the righteousness of man

[Matthew 5:17](#) (LSB) <sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

[Matthew 22:37-40](#) (LSB) <sup>37</sup> And He said to him, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ <sup>38</sup> “This is the great and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup> “And the second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ <sup>40</sup> “On these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets.”

### The Christian’s walk of righteousness

Martyn Lloyd-Jones: Here we have what we may well call a picture of the Christian living his life in this world in the presence of God, in active submission to God, and in entire dependence upon Him.

[Matthew 6:1](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> “Beware of doing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

### How do we walk out our righteousness before God?

[2 Corinthians 5:21](#) (LSB) <sup>21</sup> He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

[Ephesians 4:22-24](#) (LSB) <sup>22</sup> to lay aside, in reference to your former conduct, the old man, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new man, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

[1 John 1:6](#) (LSB) <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not do the truth;

[1 John 1:7-9](#) (LSB) <sup>7</sup> but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### A theatrical, hypocritical, and false righteousness

[Matthew 6:1](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> “Beware of doing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

### What are the believer’s rewards?

[John 3:16](#) (LSB) <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

[Romans 6:23](#) (LSB) <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[2 Timothy 4:8](#) (LSB) <sup>8</sup> In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

[1 Corinthians 9:25](#) (LSB) <sup>25</sup> Now everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible.

[James 1:12](#) (LSB) <sup>12</sup> Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

[1 Peter 1:3-4](#) (LSB) <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living

hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to obtain an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, having been kept in heaven for you,

[Matthew 6:19–21](#) (LSB) <sup>19</sup> “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; <sup>21</sup> for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

[Revelation 21:3](#) (LSB) <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

### Discussion Questions:

Why is it significant that Jesus’s primary audience in [Matthew 5](#) was His disciples?

How does this context affect our understanding of His teachings on righteousness?

How does Jesus compare the righteousness required for the Kingdom with the righteousness of the Pharisees and scribes in [Matthew 5:17-48](#)? What are the key differences?

What does it mean to have a “theatrical righteousness” as described in the sermon? How can we guard against this in our own lives?

How does Jesus’s warning in [Matthew 6:1](#) about doing righteousness to be noticed by men relate to the concept of heavenly rewards?

What motivates your actions—earthly recognition or eternal rewards? Why?

How can we examine our own hearts to ensure that our righteousness is genuine and not just for show?

What steps can we take to align our actions with true righteousness found in Christ?

## **Beware of Self-Centered Donations (Matt 6:2-4)**

Jesus commands you to give straight from your heart! ([Matt 6:2](#))

[Matthew 6:2](#) (LSB) <sup>2</sup> “Therefore, when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.”

God expects us to give from the heart

[Leviticus 19:9-10](#) (LSB) <sup>9</sup> “Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup> “Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the afflicted and for the sojourner. I am Yahweh your God.”

[Leviticus 25:35](#) (LSB) <sup>35</sup> “Now if a brother of yours becomes poor and his means with regard to you falter, then you are to sustain him, like a sojourner or a foreign resident, that he may live with you.”

[Deuteronomy 15:12-14](#) (LSB) <sup>12</sup> “If your brother, a Hebrew man or woman, is sold to you, then he shall serve you six years, but in the seventh year you shall let him go *to be free* from you. <sup>13</sup> “When you let him go *to be free* from you, you shall not let him go empty-handed. <sup>14</sup> “You shall furnish him generously from your flock and from your threshing floor and from your wine vat; you shall give to him as Yahweh your God has blessed you.”

God expects us to actively give to others in need

[James 2:15-16](#) (LSB) <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?”



## Jesus commands you to give sans the hubbub! ([Matt 6:2](#))

[Matthew 6:2](#) (LSB) <sup>2</sup> “Therefore, when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

### Are you a hypocrite?

The heart of man has so many recesses of vanity, and so many retreats of falsehood, and is so enveloped with fraudulent hypocrisy, that it frequently deceives even himself. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

Of all things in the world that stink in the nostrils of men, hypocrisy is the worst. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

### The hypocritical Jewish religious leaders

[Sirach 3:30](#) (KJV Apoc) <sup>30</sup> Water will quench a flaming fire; and alms maketh an atonement for sins. [This is Apocrypha - this is for historical purposes only! ]

[Tobit 12:8-9](#) (KJV Apoc) <sup>8</sup> Prayer is good with fasting and alms and righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than much with unrighteousness. It is better to give alms than to lay up gold: <sup>9</sup> For alms doth deliver from death, and shall purge away all sin. Those that exercise alms and righteousness shall be filled with life: [This is Apocrypha - this is for historical purposes only! ]

[Luke 16:25](#) (LSB) <sup>25</sup> “But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things. But now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.

[Matthew 19:22](#) (LSB) <sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.

[Matthew 19:25](#) (LSB) <sup>25</sup> And when the disciples heard *this*, they were very astonished and said, “Then who can be saved?”

"As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul out of purgatory springs"-  
attributed to Johann Tetzel.

“By prayer we seek to appease God, by fasting we extinguish the lust of the  
flesh, and by alms we redeem our sins.” ~ Pope Leo the Great

Do not sound the trumpet

[Matthew 6:2](#) (LSB) <sup>2</sup> “Therefore, when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

[Romans 2:11](#) (LSB) <sup>11</sup> For there is no partiality with God.

God cares about your heart, not your wealth!

[Matthew 6:2](#) (LSB) <sup>2</sup> “Therefore, when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

[James 2:1-4](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> My brothers, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. <sup>2</sup> For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in bright clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, <sup>3</sup> and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the bright clothes, and say, “You sit here in a good place,” and you say to the poor man, “You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,” <sup>4</sup> have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Jesus commands you to give squarely under your hat! ([Matt 6:3-4](#))

[Matthew 6:3-4](#) (LSB) <sup>3</sup> “But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

## The difficult balance

[Matthew 5:16](#) (LSB) <sup>16</sup> “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

The Christian life is full of difficulties, full of pitfalls and snares. ~ Martyn Lloyd-Jones

There is no contradiction here, but we are called to [let our light shine and avoid self-exaltation] at...the same time. The Christian is to live in such a way that men looking at him, and seeing the quality of his life, will glorify God. He must always remember at the same time that he is not to do things in order that he may attract attention to himself. He must not desire to be seen of men, he is never to be self-conscious. But, clearly, this balance is a fine and delicate one; so often we tend to go to one extreme or the other. Christian people tend either to be guilty of great ostentation or else to become monks and hermits.

The question is not whether or not our good works should be seen by others, but whether they are done for that end. When they are done “in such a way” that attention and glory are focused on our “Father who is in heaven” rather than on ourselves, God is pleased. ~John MacArthur

The giving of alms to the poor does not bring about eternal life, but the life of repentance and faith that gives alms out of a love for God and neighbor does. The use of one’s possessions described here does not bring about God’s mercy and grace (to earn “grace” is a contradiction of terms) but is itself brought about by God’s mercy and grace. ~ **Robert H. Stein**

[Acts 20:33–35](#) (LSB) <sup>33</sup> “I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes. <sup>34</sup> “You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my *own* needs and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup> “In everything I showed you that by laboring in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

[Matthew 6:4](#) (LSB) <sup>4</sup> so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

[Psalm 139:7-10](#) (LSB) <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? <sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. <sup>9</sup> If I lift up the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, <sup>10</sup> Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

## Discussion Questions:

Why do you think Jesus emphasizes "when you give to the poor" instead of "if you give to the poor"?

How do the passages in [Leviticus 19:9-10](#), [25:35](#), and [Deuteronomy 15:12-14](#) reflect God's expectation for His people to give?

What does Jesus mean by calling some givers "hypocrites"? How does this term relate to the motives behind their giving?

How can we examine our own hearts to ensure our giving is genuine?

Reflect on your motivations for giving. How can you ensure your giving is "straight from the heart" and not for show?

How do you reconcile Jesus' command to let your light shine before men ([Matthew 5:16](#)) with His command to give in secret ([Matthew 6:3-4](#))?

How do modern practices of giving, such as public donations or social media posts about charitable acts, align or conflict with Jesus' teaching?

## Conclusion:

Some reminders as you give:

*Investing in Christ's Kingdom, not yours*

[2 Corinthians 9:6](#) (LSB) <sup>6</sup> Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows with blessing will also reap with blessing.

*Investing in others, not self*

[2 Corinthians 9:7](#) (LSB) <sup>7</sup> Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

[2 Samuel 24:24](#) (LSB) <sup>24</sup> However, the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will surely buy *it* from you for a price, for I will not offer burnt offerings to Yahweh my God which cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

*Investing in the Kingdom is a matter of the heart, not wealth*

[Luke 21:1-4](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. <sup>2</sup> And He saw a poor widow putting in two lepta. <sup>3</sup> And He said, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all *of them*. <sup>4</sup> “For they all put in their gifts out of their abundance; but she, out of what she lacked, put in all that she had for living.”

We may love money without having it, just as we may have money without loving it. ~ **John Charles Ryle (Bishop of Liverpool)**

[2 Corinthians 8:1-3](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> Now brothers, we make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup> that in a great testing by affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the richness of their generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord,

*Investing in the Kingdom brings eternal blessings, not necessarily worldly riches*

[Luke 16:9-13](#) (LSB) <sup>9</sup> “And I say to you, make friends for yourselves from the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will take you into the eternal dwellings.

<sup>10</sup> “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much, and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. <sup>11</sup> “Therefore if you have not been faithful in the *use of* unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true *riches* to you?

God has a way of giving by the cartloads to those who give away by shovelfuls.  
~ **Charles Spurgeon**

*Investing in the kingdom is to be of your own accord, not coerced*

[2 Corinthians 8:3](#) (LSB) <sup>3</sup> For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord,

[2 Corinthians 9:6-7](#) (LSB) <sup>6</sup> Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows with blessing will also reap with blessing. <sup>7</sup> Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

*Investing in the Kingdom on the basis of need, not self-gratification*

[Matthew 25:35-36](#) (LSB) <sup>35</sup> ‘For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; <sup>36</sup> naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’

[Matthew 25:40](#) (LSB) <sup>40</sup> “And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me.’

Not that it is unlawful to give alms *when men see us*; we may do it; but not *that men may see us*; we should rather choose those objects of charity that are less observed. ~ **Matthew Henry (Nonconformist Biblical Exegete)**

*Investing in the Kingdom demonstrates a heart of love, not intimidation*

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. ~ **Amy Carmichael (Missionary to India)**

[Matthew 23:23-24](#) (LSB) <sup>23</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the Law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. <sup>24</sup> “You blind guides, who strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!

## Discussion Questions

How do you understand the concept of investing in Christ’s Kingdom rather than your own?

According to [2 Corinthians 9:7](#), how should our attitude be when we give? Why is it important to give cheerfully rather than out of obligation?

Discuss the difference between giving to receive a blessing and giving to meet a need. How can we maintain the right focus in our giving?

Discuss JC Ryle's quote: "We may love money without having it, just as we may have money without loving it." How does this perspective shape our understanding of generosity?

Paul praises the churches of Macedonia for their generosity despite their poverty ([2 Corinthians 8:1-3](#)). How can we be encouraged by their example in our own context?

Why might it be difficult for both the poor and the rich to give generously?

How can we overcome these challenges?

In [Luke 16:9-13](#), Jesus teaches about using worldly wealth for eternal purposes. How can we apply this teaching to our financial decisions?

Discuss Charles Spurgeon's quote: "God has a way of giving by the cartloads to those who give away by shovelfuls." What does this mean for our understanding of God's blessings?

Jesus highlights the importance of meeting real needs in [Matthew 25:35-36](#). How can we prioritize meeting the needs of others in our giving?

Discuss the implications of Jesus's rebuke of the Pharisees in [Matthew 23:23-24](#). How can we avoid the trap of legalistic giving and instead focus on justice, mercy, and faithfulness?

## The Gospel

### **God**

#### **Created and owns everything**

[Gen 1:1](#)—*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth*

[Psalm 24:1](#)—The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.

### **Is Perfectly Holy**

[1 John 1:5](#)—This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.

[Matt 5:48](#)—Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

### **Requires perfect obedience to His Law**

[James 2:10](#)—for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

### **Man**

#### **Has broken God's law**

[Rom 3:10,23](#)—there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

#### **Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin**

[Rom. 6:23](#)—For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

#### **Cannot save himself by his good works**

[Titus 3:5](#)—He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

### **Christ**

#### **Came to earth both as God and sinless man**

[Col 2:9](#)—For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form

#### **Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty**

[Rom 5:8](#)—But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us



[2 Cor 5:21](#)—He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

### **Rose from the grave and is alive today**

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

### **Sinners**

#### **Must repent of all that dishonors God**

[Isa 55:7](#)—Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

[Luke 9:23](#)—if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

#### **Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior**

[Rom 10:9](#)—that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

#### **Will you repent and believe in Christ?**

[Acts 17:30](#)—therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

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## **Additional Quotes**

We are not saved by our giving; we are saved by God's giving. ~ **Arthur Walkington Pink**

I shall not value his prayers at all, be he never so earnest and frequent in them, who gives not alms according to his ability. ~ **John Owen (Puritan Divine and Statesman)**

*Eleēnosunē* (**alms**) literally refers to any act of mercy or pity, but came to be used primarily of giving money, food, or clothing to the poor. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

*Worship is giving to God the best He has given us.* ~ **Oswald Chambers (Lecturer and Missionary)**

Giving is true having, as the old gravestone said of the dead man, “What I spent I had, what I saved I lost, what I gave I have.” ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Grace does not make giving optional. ~ **Charles C. Ryrie**

All believers are taught to give—but there is such a thing as a special gift of giving. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

He lost nothing by giving all to God. ~ **Andrew Murray**

The secret of true giving is the joy of the Holy Ghost. ~ **Andrew Murray**

For it is in giving that we receive.

**Saint Francis of Assisi; Gary Derickson; Earl D. Radmacher**

There is nothing in this world but lives by giving, except a covetous man, and such a man is a piece of grit in the machinery. He is out of gear with the universe. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Only fix even the smallest amount you purpose to give of your income, and give this regularly; and as God is pleased to increase your light and grace, and is pleased to prosper you more, so give more. If you neglect a habitual giving, a regular giving, a giving from principle and upon scriptural ground, and leave it only to feeling and impulse, or particular arousing circumstances, you will certainly be a loser. ~ **George Müller (Philanthropist and Preacher)**

A farmer was known for giving extensively to the Lord's work. He explained it this way: "I keep shoveling into God's bin, and God keeps shoveling back into mine, and He has the bigger shovel." ~ **Anonymous**

The gospel is a gospel of giving and forgiving. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

"The key to spiritual victory and true happiness is not in trying to get all we can from God but in giving all that we are and have to Him." ~ **John F.**

**MacArthur**

On January 12<sup>th</sup> 1723, I made a solemn dedication of myself to God and wrote it down; giving up myself and all that I had to God; to be for the future in no respect my own. ~ **Jonathan Edwards (American Evangelical Preacher)**

Giving is heart preparation for what God wants to say to us and do for us. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

Giving is a giant lever positioned on the fulcrum of this world, allowing us to move mountains in the next world. Because we give, eternity will be different—for others and for us. . . . Giving doesn't strip me of vested interests; rather, it shifts my vested interests from earth to heaven—from self to God.

Of course, money isn't all I can give. Time, wisdom, and expertise are wonderful gifts. Giving in any form breaks affluenza's fever. Giving breaks me free from the gravitational hold of money and possessions. Giving shifts me to a new center of gravity—heaven. ~ **Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle***

Christians are to be taught that he who sees a man in need, and passes him by, and gives [his money] for pardons, purchases not the indulgences of the pope, but the indignation of God. ~ **Martin Luther (Founder of the German Reformation)**

It is not a matter of possession but of desire. One man may have much money on him but no greed in him, whereas another may have no money on him but much greed in him. ~ **Saint Augustine of Hippo**

Why does not the pope, whose wealth is to-day greater than the riches of the richest, build just this one church of St. Peter with his own money, rather than

with the money of poor believers? ~ **Martin Luther (Founder of the German Reformation)**

It's good to have the things money can buy, provided you don't lose the things money can't buy. ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

Lighter is the loss of money than of character. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

A man's god is that for which he lives, for which he is prepared to give his time, his energy, his money, that which stimulates him and rouses him, excites, and enthuses him. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

The money, the pleasures, the daily business of the world are so many traps to catch souls. ~ **John Charles Ryle (Bishop of Liverpool)**

You can see what God thinks of money when you see the people he gives it to. ~ **Abraham Lincoln (Sixteenth President of the United States)**

Money is a marvelous servant but a terrible master. ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

The prime need of the church is not men of money nor men of brains, but men of prayer. ~ **Edward McKendree Bounds (American Methodist Episcopal Minister)**

The world says, "In everything by money." ... The Church says, "In everything by prayer." ~ A. W. Tozer

If you go after the money and don't care about the people, we're hirelings and not shepherds. ~ A. W. Tozer