

## *In the Service of the Saints*

### *Romans 15:23-33*

*"It is hard to emphasize giving ourselves to God too much, because in the fullest sense everything in the Christian life begins, continues, and ends with this necessarily. It begins here, because this is what it means to be Christian. To be a Christian is to surrender oneself to Jesus Christ, repenting of sin, believing on him, and beginning to follow him as one's master. It continues here, because Jesus calls us to a life of discipleship, which means serving him as Lord of our entire lives. It ends here, because Christians must persevere in this call to the very end.*

*...A Christian will give everything he or she is or has to Jesus Christ because Jesus has first given himself for us. If you have trusted Christ as your Savior, you will want to give yourself and your treasure to others, as he gave himself for you. Or else, you need to be taught to do it." Boice*

- I. The Lord is constantly teaching us about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Our responsibility is to be faithful, available and teachable (**Rom. 12:1**) as he works to fulfill his will through us. The body of Christ is his primary means of ministry to not only the people who are his, but also to those who are in desperate need of the gospel. One of the responsibilities that he wants us to be particularly sensitive to is in giving of both our time and resources to those in need.

Rom. 15:23-29

Gal. 2:8-10

- A. Throughout redemptive history God has taught the importance of giving back to him a portion of what he has given to those who love him, as an act of worship and appreciation of his goodness toward us.

Gen. 4:2-5

Num. 18:21,14

Deut. 14:22-23

Deut. 14:28-29

2 Cor. 8:5

Mal. 3:8-10

- B. God is a giver, he loves to give of himself through the body of Christ to bless his people with his grace, love and mercy. His command is that we excel in the grace of giving first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God to others so that we honor the Lord himself (**2 Cor. 8:19**) by serving his body with the resources he has given us.

Rom. 25-27

1 Peter 4:10

James 2:15-17

2 Cor. 8:1-7

2 Cor. 9:1-5

- II. Giving to the Lord not only means giving of our time and resources, it also means that we are to give ourselves in prayer for the saints as we struggle with living in a sin sick fallen world that certainly isn't praying for our physical, spiritual and emotional wellbeing. We alone have God's ear, therefore we must learn to *"pray in the Spirit on all occasion with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints (Eph. 6:12).*

Rom. 15:28-33

Eph. 6:18

James 5:16

Acts 21:28

Acts 21:17-20