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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.  
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Family Survival (**Eph 5:23-28**)

PM Sermon:

Christ – the greatest Example

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Daniel – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Acts – V. Smith

**In SEARCH of the Lord's Way**

On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

**The Truth in Love** on Channel 47

Sundays @ 8am

Oologah Podcast Network

Visit [www.biblewaymedia.org](http://www.biblewaymedia.org) for more info.

# The Oologah Informer December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## Worship

### The Avenue of Contribution

By Randy Watson  
Part 2 of 2

#### When and How Often Should Christians Give?

The New Testament church has been instructed to “upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store” (1 Corinthians 16:2). The church at Corinth was involved in the relief fund for the Saints of Judea. Much information is given in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 which reinforces the principles considered above from Acts 2-6 and Acts 11. The Contribution given to the church at Corinth was not limited to the local group. Paul said, “...as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye” (1 Corinthians 16:1). The Contribution to gather on the first day of the week is both authoritative as a “command” or “order” (therefore not optional) and universal as Paul indicated. The free-will offerings of the church of Christ, then and now, are upon each and every Lord’s day or Sunday and at no other time. Notice also, that the day of the offering is what was “ordered” here and not the giving itself as it was already being practiced.

#### How Much Should Christians Give?

Tithing is practiced among many denominational groups and was the system of regulated giving in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, there is no such doctrine as tithing (giving ten percent). Under Christ’s system, the amount is determined according to the following principles:

“As God hath prospered him” (1 Corinthians 16:2);

From a “willing mind” (2 Corinthians 8:12);

With “zeal” (2 Corinthians 9:2);

“Every man as he purposeth in his heart . . . not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7);

“According to that a man hath . . . not that other men be eased, and ye burdened, but by an equality” (2 Corinthians 8:12-15).

The Christian should also always remember that “he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully” (2 Corinthians 9:6).

#### Common Non-Biblical Practices Among Denominations

In spite of the clear doctrine of Christ, it is not uncommon today for denominational churches to practice their own plan for funding their works. Many groups have changed the Lord’s day free-will offering to include any meeting on any day of the week as suits their wishes.

Some have made it more like paying a bill where the church tries to regulate the amount given and scrutinizes its members' giving practices. Still others have either added to the free-will offerings or replaced it with sales, auctions and soliciting the public to raise funds.

One thing that has led to this behavior is that many churches have attempted to modify the scope of the work of the church as portrayed in the scripture. So many times, the churches are raising funds for various forms of entertainment and social activities or facilities to accommodate such activities. It seems that many consider youth group social activities or sightseeing trips as the work of the church—things which God never intended for the church to fund. When a church reaches beyond the purpose for which she was intended by God, then God's system of funding cannot suffice. Every church whose work is governed by the New Testament can fully fund her efforts by free-will offerings of understanding and sacrificial Christians collected upon the Lord's day.

### **Concluding Remarks**

The free-will offerings of Christians was the only manner in which the Lord's church funded her works in the Bible. Those who follow the New Testament today, will not support church car washes, bake sales, yard/garage sales or auctions, walk-a-thons, etc. Nor will they solicit funds for the church from the general public as some religious organizations do. These things are not authorized in the Bible as methods of funding the church. On the other hand, as was practiced in Acts 4-5, Christians should feel free to, as individuals, conduct such fund-raisers for personal use, and if they then desire, to contribute a part or all of these funds to the church. In this case, promoting such as a manner of raising funds for some church-related activity might best be avoided. The Lord has spoken. We can find "book, chapter and verse" authority for:

Free-will offerings.

On the Lord's day.

For the purpose of doing the Lord's work.

Let us determine to follow God's revealed plan in our free-will offerings as in every other aspect of Christian worship and living.