

# LIMITED BENEVOLENCE

- 1) What two kinds of action play an important role in this discussion?
- 2) When a passage is read about benevolence, what question should we be asking?
- 3) What two different kinds of money play an important role in this discussion?
- 4) When Peter told the lame man, "Silver and gold I do not have," what did this imply?
- 5) The apostles said there was something "not desirable" and they were not going to do it anymore. What was it?

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- 6) Does everyone have a right to have food to eat?
- 7) Why did the Lord send the apostles out to preach in Mt 10 without any gold or silver?
- 8) What two groups can the phrase "*all men*" refer to and how do we know which group is under consideration?

# LIMITED BENEVOLENCE

"Limited benevolence" – means the church is limited in who may receive financial assistance from the treasury of the church.

# Two Kinds of Action

- **Individual action**
- **Church action**

**Argument: If an individual does something, then the church is doing it.**

## Passage #1 ⇒ Matthew 18:15-17

### Matthew 18:15-17

15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, **go and tell him his fault between you and him alone**. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

16 But if he will not hear, **take with you one or two more**, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to **the church**. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

## Passage #2 ⇒ 1 Timothy 5:16

### 1 Timothy 5:16

16 If **any believing man or woman** has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let **the church** be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.

## Passage #3 ⇒ Romans 14:5

### Romans 14:5

5 **One person** esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

### Galatians 4:10-11

10 **You** observe days and months and seasons and years.

11 I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

## Passage #4 ⇒ 1 Corinthians 11:33

### 1 Corinthians 11:33-34

33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.



# Two Kinds of Money

- **Individual's money**
- **Church's money**

## Passage #1 ⇒ Acts 4:34-35

### Acts 4:34-35

34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold,

35 and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

## Acts 5:1-4

1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession.

2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"

4 While it remained, was it not **your own**? And after it was sold, was it not in **your own control**? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

## Passage #2 ⇒ Luke 6:34-35

### Luke 6:34-35

34 And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.

35 But love your enemies, do good, and **lend, hoping for nothing in return**; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

# Rules For The Church Treasury

## 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:

2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

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## Passage #1 ⇒ Acts 3:1-6

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1 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

## Passage #1 ⇒ Acts 3:1-6

### Acts 3:1-6

5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

6 Then Peter said, "**Silver and gold I do not have**, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

## Passage #2 ⇒ Acts 6:1-2

### Acts 6:1-2

1 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "**It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.**

## Passage #3 ⇒ Acts 11:27-30

### Acts 11:27-30

27 And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch.

28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.

29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to **send relief to the brethren** dwelling in Judea.

30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

## Passage #4 ⇒ 1 Timothy 5:3-16

### 1 Timothy 5

3 Honor widows who are really widows.

4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.

## Passage #4 ⇒ 1 Timothy 5:3-16

### 1 Timothy 5

9 Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man,

10 well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.



## Passage #4 ⇒ 1 Timothy 5:3-16

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# Money & Evangelism

- **The church becomes distracted and neglects its primary duties.**
- **The “converts” are not converted to the Lord but to money.**

## Romans 16:18

18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but **their own belly**, ...

## 1 Timothy 6:5

5 ... [some men] suppose that **godliness is a means of gain**. ...

## Passage #1 ⇒ John 6:25-27

### John 6:25-27

25 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?"

26 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.**

27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

## Passage #1 ⇒ John 6:25-27

### John 6:66

66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

## Passage #2 ⇒ Matthew 10:5-15

### Matthew 10

5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.

6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

## Passage #2 ⇒ Matthew 10:5-15

### Matthew 10

**9 Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts,**

**10 nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.**

11 "Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out.

12 And when you go into a household, greet it.

## Passage #2 ⇒ Matthew 10:5-15

### Matthew 10

13 If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.

15 Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!



## Passage #3 ⇒ Luke 4:25-27

### Luke 4:25-27

25 But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land;

26 but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.

27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

# Common Objections

- **James 1:27**
- **Galatians 6:10**
- **2 Corinthians 9:13**

## Passage #1 ⇒ James 1:27

### James 1:27

27 **Pure and undefiled religion** before God and the Father is this: to **visit orphans and widows in their trouble**, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

## Passage #1 ⇒ James 1:27

### James 1:26-27

26 If **anyone** among you thinks **he** is religious, and does not bridle **his** tongue but deceives **his** own heart, this **one's** religion is useless.

27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep **oneself** unspotted from the world.

## Passage #2 ⇒ Galatians 6:10

### Galatians 6:10

10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us **do good to all**, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

## Passage #2 ⇒ Galatians 6:10

### Galatians 6:6-10

6 Let **him** [an individual person] who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a **man** sows, that **he** will also reap.

8 For **he** who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but **he** who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

9 And let **us** [individually] not grow weary while doing good, for in due season **we** shall reap if **we** do not lose heart.

10 Therefore, as **we** [individually] have opportunity, let **us** do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

## Passage #3 ⇒ 2 Corinthians 9:13

### 2 Corinthians 9:13

13 while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and **all men,**

## Passage #3 ⇒ 2 Corinthians 9:13

### 2 Corinthians 8:3-4

3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,

4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of **the ministering to the saints.**



## Passage #3 ⇒ 2 Corinthians 9:13

### 2 Corinthians 9

1 Now concerning **the ministering to the saints**, it is superfluous for me to write to you;

## Passage #3 ⇒ 2 Corinthians 9:13

### 2 Corinthians 9

12 For the administration of this service not only supplies **the needs of the saints**, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

13 while, through the proof of this ministry, **they glorify God** for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men,

14 and by **their prayer for you**, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.

# Conclusion

Great harm has come by using church money for non-members.

- **The church becomes distracted** and neglects its primary duties.
- **People are converted to money,** not God.
- **It is a sin** to use church money for non-members. No authority. Silence forbids.