
BIBLE TALK

This is George Battey from the “**CHURCH OF CHRIST**” – the “churches of Christ salute you” (Rom. 16:16).

This week the question is: ***Should you send money to TV preachers?***

If you ever tune in and watch religious programming, there is one common denominator to these broadcasts – **money**. The preachers on television are asking for money. They want donations or they want you to purchase their tapes or printed material. They want you to make a “seed-faith” contribution. Let me give you an example of what I mean.

David Epley classifies himself as a “Word Faith teacher.” He promises that if you listen to his so-called “gospel message” you will find yourself being blessed by God materially – far beyond your wildest dreams. Mr. Epley sent out a “bar of prayer-blessed soap” in which people were told to “wash away all bad luck, sickness, misfortunes and evil.” He writes this:

Now, after you wash the poverty from your hands ... take out the largest bill or check you have ... that \$100, \$50, or \$20 bill. ... Hold it in your clean hands and say, “In Jesus’ name I dedicate this gift to God’s work ... and expect a miracle return of money.”

Now, of course, you are expected to send the largest bill to Mr. Epley’s ministry. In the last paragraph of his letter he writes this:

Through this Gift of Discernment I see someone sending a \$25 offering and God is showing me a large check coming to them in the next short while. I mean LARGE ... it looks like over \$1000 dollars. I know this sounds strange but you know me well enough to know I have to obey God when He speaks. I’ll be waiting for your answer. (Charismatic Chaos, MacArthur, 324)

Now: Should you send money to these preachers and their ministries?

The answer is: **Absolutely not!**

Let me give you **2 good reasons** for not sending money:

- 1) Money for the Lord's work is suppose to come from the contributions of the church members when they gather for worship on the first day of each week (1 Cor 16:1-2).
- 2) These preachers are teaching false doctrine and any money sent to them will propagate the false doctrine even further.

Ephesians 5:11

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

These men do not teach salvation like the scriptures teach (Mk 16:16). They do not teach scriptural worship like the scriptures teach (1 Cor 14:34-35). They use religion as an opportunity to enrich themselves.

1 Timothy 6:5

5 ... men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

If you could see the houses, cars and jewelry these men possess, you would immediately see they are using religion as a means of enriching themselves.

Neither Jesus nor the apostles enriched themselves. They did not ask any unbelievers to contribute to their ministries. Jesus didn't even have His own house to live in (Mt 8:20). The apostles were often hungry and without the necessities of life (2 Cor 11:27).

3 John 7

7 ... they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles.

2 Corinthians 11:7

7 ... I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge ...

My friend, do not waste your money by sending it to television ministries. True gospel preachers do not charge people to hear the gospel. They do not ask the public for donations. You will never see Jesus nor His apostles doing this. These men are charlatans trying to take advantage of you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. To speak with someone about the congregation simply you may call **405-567-0575** or you may leave your name and number at the sound of the tone and one of our brethren will be glad to call you back and assist you. We also invite you to visit our web site www.WillOfTheLord.com where you may also download the notes from the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.