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Dear Associates and Friends,

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This month's article is about the topic of giving. It is from a taped presentation by Dr. Ernest L. Martin from 1992. It is titled "[How to Give to God](#)." As usual, you as an individual, you as a believer, are the greatest beneficiary from any aspect of your relationship to God. This is how God has established His plan for you in creation. Believe it or not, as the saying goes, it is indeed "all about you." You are the prime beneficiary of any and all giving that you do, whether you give to God, to your brothers and sisters in Christ, to your physical family, or to your neighbor near to you.

This month's article has nothing to do with tithing. Most of you reading this Newsletter already know from Dr. Martin's book [The Tithing Dilemma](#) that tithing is not "giving" anything to God. It is a requirement that God says must be "paid," not given to God. Tithing is a requirement imposed by God in His covenant with Israel. Tithing is required for individuals within a certain geographical area in the land of Israel to present to God agricultural goods (and agricultural goods only) to the Levitical priests for the operation of the Tabernacle or Temple. No Temple exists today, therefore no Israelite can pay tithes. Read that book if this information challenges your current understanding about tithing.

The Tithing Dilemma has clarified that issue for over 100,000 people. It is interesting that almost none of the people who have been freed from tithing to a religious organization have ever said "thank you" to Dr. Martin or ASK for relieving them of that burden imposed by traditions of men.

Giving is another matter entirely. It is different from the obligation of tithing by those required to tithe. When the people were asked to give freely, they did so generously. Here are three quick examples of the people of Israel giving to God and giving for the benefit of their own nation:

(1) When God ordered the construction of the Tabernacle in the wilderness He had Moses request the people to give voluntarily for the construction of the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:1–8, 35:5–29):

"And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought YHWH's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments. ..."

[At the end:] **The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto YHWH, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which YHWH had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses."**

• *Exodus 35:21, 29*

Later the people were asked to give for the feast of Tabernacles in thanksgiving according to God's blessing to them (Deuteronomy 16:17). All their giving was voluntary above the requirement of the tithe.

(2) Having had the example from the wilderness, when David desired to build the Temple, the leaders and the people of Israel again desired to contribute to the construction of God's sanctuary, the Temple. They did so generously:

"Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly, And gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. And they with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure of the

house of YHWH, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to YHWH: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.”

• **1 Chronicles 29:6–9**

King David had already gathered all that was necessary for the construction and operation of the Temple (1 Chronicles 29:2–5). The people did not need to contribute anything, but they desired to do so. They wanted to participate in this great endeavor desired by King David, approved of by God, to be built by Solomon when he became King of Israel. They gave generously.

(3) After the return from exile in Babylon, Nehemiah set the example of giving for the people (Nehemiah 5:14–19), after which donations came from the people (Nehemiah 7:70–72).

In each of the three instances mentioned above the donations were given willingly and eagerly to God. In fact the people gave superabundantly as they were able. They gave cheerfully. So too, while the Corinthian *ekklesia* had many problems, generosity was not one of their faults. The apostle Paul rejoiced over their liberality in giving contributions to the poor brethren in Judea. Paul heaps praise upon them throughout 2 Corinthians chapter 9:

“Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver.”

• **2 Corinthians 9:7**

Thank You

Those of you who contribute to ASK are indeed cheerful givers. We know this because many of you communicate that fact to us regularly, even though these are difficult economic times. You wish you could do more. We greatly appreciate all that you do to keep ASK operating.

For those who do not contribute to ASK — yet — we hope that a portion of your giving to God will soon include ASK as a worthy recipient of your giving to the brethren. Like the ox, we feel the services provided by ASK are worthy of hire and reward (1 Timothy 5:18). We are teaching you from the Scriptures, and you are learning valuable information that you are unlikely to find elsewhere.

Occasionally we receive a purchase of books or a contribution from people who say they have been reading and accessing the ASK website for years before they act to make a purchase or a contribution. The apostle Paul encourages us **“that we henceforth be no more children ...”** (Ephesians 4:14). This applies also to the matter of “giving to God.” If you are one of those who have been reading for months or even years, and think the work we are doing is valuable, then please give to ASK to help yourself and your brothers and sisters **“in Christ,”** so that those who are directed to ASK can continue to learn the best information about God, Jesus Christ, His Gospel, and the Holy Scriptures.

The Concordant Version puts a different spin on a familiar passage:

“... for the scripture is saying: ‘A threshing ox you shall not be muzzling,’ and ‘Worthy is the worker of his wages.’”

• **1 Timothy 5:18, Concordant Version**

ASK has shown itself worthy since Dr. Martin founded this organization in 1985. For our part, we at ASK can only echo what Paul wrote to the Corinthian *ekklesia*: **“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift”** (2 Corinthians 9:15). One gift to us from God is you who support ASK, whenever and however you are able. Again, thank you all.

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