



# **The Story of a Giving God**

**2 Peter 1:2-4**

Topical message on giving!

**Sermon given on April 7, 2019**



**Sunday Morning Service**

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# The Story of a Giving God

## *2 Peter 1:2-4*

### Opening Comments

- Turn to **2 Peter**
- My preferred style of teaching is through books of the Bible, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse
- Doing that limits the topics I teach to those in the text that we are going through
- Even though I am the Senior Pastor of the church, I am not the only decision-maker
- While God has called me to lead the church, He has not called me to do that alone
- There is a group of men, pastors and elders, who have committed to walk with me as we try to lead this church where God would want it to go
- Recently in a meeting of those men, it was decided that I should teach on a topic they believed we all need to grow in
- And because I trust the wisdom God has given them, I am going to do that
- So, starting today we will do a two-part series on a topic that impacts everyone's life, including most Christians
- And because it impacts most Christians, it impacts the church
- So important and impactful is this topic that Jesus talked about it more than any other topic in the New Testament
- And then the other writers of the new Testament followed His pattern
- The devil would like us to avoid this topic because he uses it to hold Christians in bondage and to limit the work of the church in the world
- If we grow in our faith in this topic, it promises to help us live in the freedom Christ died to give us and to enable the church to proclaim the gospel more fully into our community
- Our topic for the today and next Sunday is money

- Don't worry, this is not going to be a beg-a-thon, or a marathon guilt-trip
- This topic is important to all of us – and it is important to the church and its work
- Let's pray and ask God to show us His heart for this topic

## Teaching

- **The Story of a Giving God**
- There are two basic questions I want to answer in this series
- First, 'What is money to God?'
- Second, 'What is money to Christians?'
- Before we seek to answer those questions, let's define what money is
- Money: a medium of exchange – a measure of value
- Medium of exchange: money is used for the buying and selling of goods or services.
- As a modern culture, we rarely barter for goods and services
- We are employed at a company that exchanges money for our time
- We then take that money and exchange it for the needs and wants of our lives
- We also use money to assign value to things – a cup of coffee = X\$ - \$1 @ MacDonalds or the \$8 blended upside-down, Frappa-spresso with whipped cream, extra shots, boba balls, and gold sprinkles
- Using those definitions, medium of exchange, measure of value, what does money mean to God? Nothing
- If God wants something, He will sovereignly cause it to be
- God is complete within himself – if He wanted a Diet Pepsi, He wouldn't tell anyone – wouldn't go to 7/11 with His debit card
- So then, what is money to God? There is no question that money is important to us humans, just ask the people of Venezuela
- Their money has lost 99% of its value in a short period of time
- Maybe you have seen the pictures of money in the streets – virtually worthless
- Try to imagine what it would be like for every dollar you have being worth only a penny
- Money is important to us, but is it important to God?

- It might surprise you, but yes, money is important to God
- Last week I said that God created us to be the objects of His love – to be in an intimate, fellowship, communion with Creator God
- Money is one of the ways that God interacts with His people
- It is one of the ways that He pours out his grace, His unmerited favor upon our lives – giving us what we haven't earned and don't deserve
- Giving is a function of God's nature – God gives because He is a giving God
- Look at our text for today
- **2 Peter 1:2-4**
- There are a couple of phrases there I want to draw your attention to
- First, 'has given to you all things'
- God has already given us everything we need spiritually to live a good life of godliness
- And He will not keep anything back from us **Psalm 84:11**  
For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good *thing* will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.
- And another place **Psalm 34:9-10**  
Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! *there is* no want to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good *thing*.
- God is a giving God – won't hold back **John 3:16**  
For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- God gave His Son to the world
- Paul made the logical connection **Romans 8:32**  
He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?
- God is a giving God
- Look back at our text – in verse 4, the second thing, 'that you may be partakers of the divine nature'
- One of the reasons God gives us what He does is so that we can experience His divine nature
- God continues to give to us so that we can be continuously exposed to His amazing grace **Acts 14:17**

Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

- God has no use for money for Himself, but He uses it as a vehicle to express His grace to us, so that we can enjoy and experience the intimate, fellowship, communion He created us for
- Turn to **Matthew 13**
- Jesus often used illustrations out of everyday life to explain spiritual truths
- Here in Matthew 13 using a farming illustration to teach about the Word of God and what happens to it based on the kind of heart it lands in
- **Matthew 13:3-9**
- We are not going to look at the first three – go back listen to the message in Luke 8 for that
- But notice the results in the good ground – 100/60/30 times
- The farmer does his part and plants the seed – God brings the result – Paul also used farming analogy **1 Corinthians 3-7**  
**I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.**
- Matthew 13:8 is proof that God is not a socialist
- Same ground – same seed, but He gave different results – 100/60/30 times – Why?
- The simple answer: God is being God!
- What that means for each of us is that God will pour out His grace as He sees fit to whom He wills in the measure that He chooses
- Some will get a 30 times yield = enough to get by, but not a lot extra – if any
- Some will get a 60 times yield = enough to live comfortably – with some extra
- Some will get a 100 times yield = much more than they need – they have an abundance
- One of the mysteries of our relationship with God is how He measures out His grace differently to everyone
- God gives His grace abundantly to everyone, but not equally or in the same ways

- James alluded to that **James 2:5**

**Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?**

- God is a giving God – and He gives His grace abundantly
- This morning we are talking about money, but rarely does God actually give people money
- Instead, He gives them the ability and opportunity to learn – He gives people the strength, ability, and opportunity to work
- For reasons that are found in the immeasurable expanse of God’s thoughts, He distributes those graces differently to people
- There are things that we can do to hinder the flow of God’s graces in our life, and there are things that we can do to experience the fulness of God’s grace, but only to the degree that He wills it
- To experience all the grace God intends for you, grow in faith, walk in obedience, and love God with your whole being
- And then be thankful for every bit of grace God gives you
- Money is the fruit of everything God has done to provide for you
- Every time you get your paycheck, you ought to pause and thank God, not just for the paycheck itself, but for everything He did that resulted in that paycheck
- Money is important to us
- But money is not the main thing – it is not the goal
- Remember our definition from earlier
- Money = medium of exchange or a measure of value
- Money is a tool – God has given us that tool for a reason - How we use that tool declares to God how we feel about all He has done for us
- God is a giving God – He has given us everything we have
- Part of being mature in our faith is remembering all that God has given us **1 Corinthians 2:12**

**Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.**

- Started by asking the question, ‘What is money to God?’
- Money is the fruit of the graces God has poured into our life
- Some people wrongly equate the love of God with the money they receive – or with the things that money buys or provides

- The amount of money someone has or doesn't have is not an indication of God's love
- God proved His love for you in a way that was infinitely more valuable than any amount of money **Romans 5:8**  
**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**
- Christ gave His life for the penniless beggar and the billionaire
- God is a giving God and he uses money as a means to pour out His grace into our lives
- The question we need to answer next, 'What is money to Christians?'
- My challenge to you – take this next week and answer that question for yourself
- And another one to think about, 'If God were to give me more money, what would I do with it?'
- Let's take a few moments and thank God for all He has given us
- **Prayer**