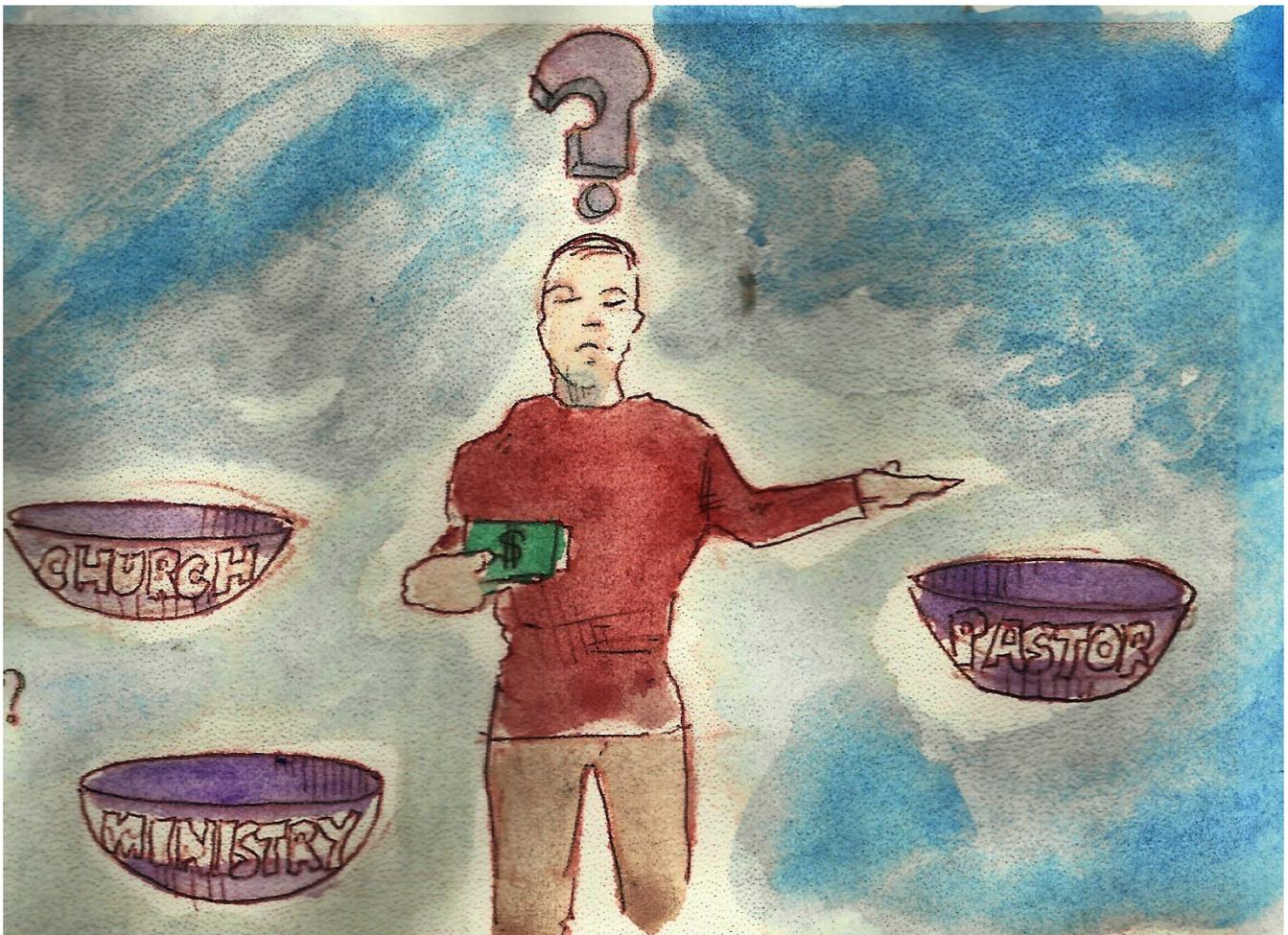


## Christian Quiz On Giving

question: Who should we give to, as Christians?

1. The church/building fund
2. The pastor/leadership....tithes/offerings
3. To the ministry we partake of?



question: Who should we give to, as Christians?

1. The church/building fund....

answer....no

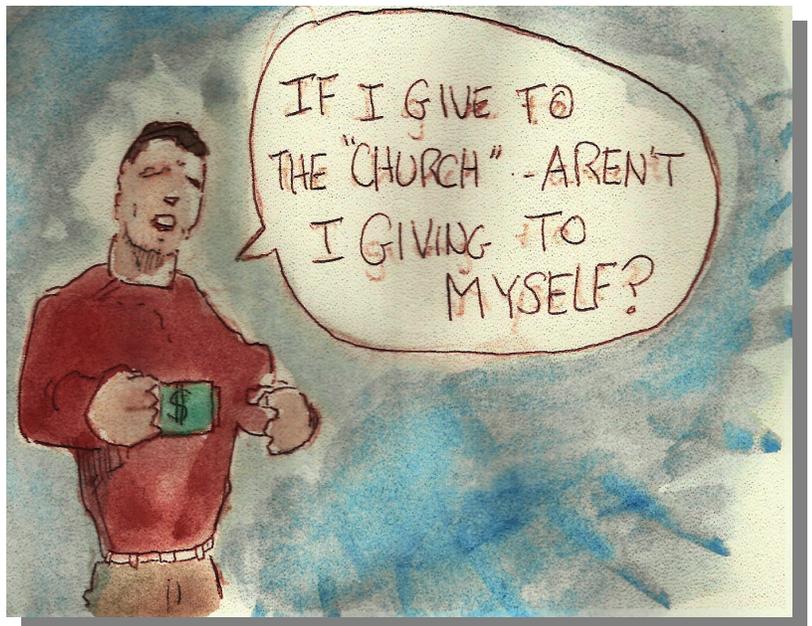
Christian ought to give, this is a Biblical truth.

“And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10: 7-8)

However does the Bible say to give to the church (the local assembly--organization--building fund) No not at all. The truth is that the people in the Bible were largely meeting in their homes. They were following Jesus' example of function, which is apostleship. Their main goal was to spread the Gospel, not create a static place of worship.

Now, IF the Lord lead a group of believers to build a physical space for the purposes of the Gospel that would be a right thing to do. In other words if we built a homeless shelter, or a place where we could minister the Gospel to the poor in some way....however this type of thing too often, over time, becomes a Christian meeting place exclusively.

The biggest thing wrong with giving to your own church/building fund is the fact that you go there. So you are giving to yourself.



Keep reading to see who you ought to give to.....

question: Who should we give to, as Christians?

2. Pastor/leadership....tithes/offerings

answer....no

Does a Christian pastor have a Biblical right to collect money from other believers? I don't think so. The word pastor is only used once in the new testament. There is no connection of this ministry gift being a full-time, paid, professional occupation. There is no example of a pastor receiving a paycheck from other believers in the Bible.



Something few Christians realize is that the Christian pastor closest Biblical type is the Levitical priests of the old testament. They ministered on the altar, in the house of God (the Jewish temple) had authority over the congregation of Israel and collected and lived of the tithes/offerings.

For most believers this might seem like the clear Bible basis. However there are a few problems with this idea. For one the new testament clearly does away with the Levitical priesthood (Hebrews 7:11-12)

In fact all of the practices of the old testament temple are changed in the new testament.

The NT temple is not a building it is people. (1 Corinthians 3:16, 2 Corinthians 6:16)

The NT ministry and priesthood is for all believers. (1 Peter 2:5, 2:9, Revelation 1:6, 5:10, Ephesians 4:1-12)

We are not to exercise authority one over another among ourselves. (Luke 22: 25-29, Mark 10:42-45, Matthew 20:25-26)



Why are these all redefined? Because we have a different offering. You see all these OT temple practices had the central purpose of making atonement for Israel's sin. This was the "stuff" that Israel had to do in order to have their sin forgiven. They needed to build the temple (as per the specific instructions in the Bible) They needed to build an altar, have repetitive meetings (since their offerings were imperfect and not able to completely cleanse sin), have a priesthood that followed the extensive instructions for making offerings, and bring in tithes/offerings (tithe was simply the amount of certain offerings, which were offerings of specific crops and herd animals).



They had to do all these things to have their sin forgiven...but we have a better Way don't we!. We have a better way to have our sin forgiven more completely--the offering of Jesus at the cross! So all of these sacrificial practices in the OT ought to be for us Christians, a prophecy of what Jesus would do! And it makes perfect sense that these sacrificial laws are changed in the new covenant.

In the Bible the High Priest received the tithes....



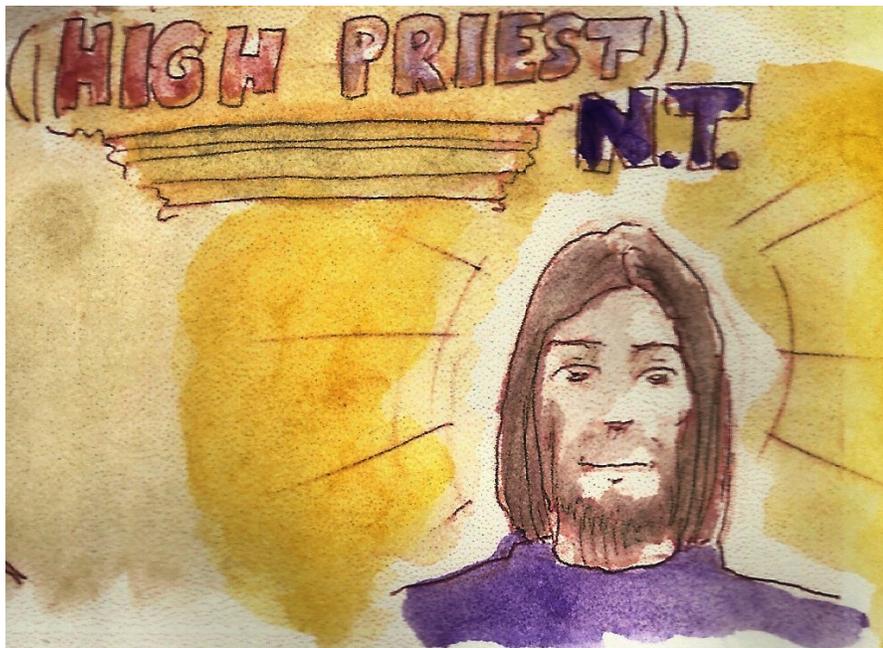
We have a new High Priest—Jesus!

Heb 3:1\* Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and **High Priest** of our profession, Christ Jesus;

Heb 4:14\* Seeing then that we have a great **high priest**, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Heb 4:15\* For we have not an **high priest** which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

But this gives you a clue as to how we ought to give....



Keep reading to see who you ought to give to.....

question: Who should we give to, as Christians?

To the ministry we partake of?

answer:....no

Many today try to say that if their ministry helped you you are obligated Biblically to give to them. They might say if you are a "partaker" of their ministry you need to donate.



Amazing how using one single word out of the Bible will be used to convince people of something-!

Let's look closely at this part of the Bible....

11\* If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

12\* If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather?

Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

13\* Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

14\* Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

15\* ¶ But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.

16\* For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

17\* For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

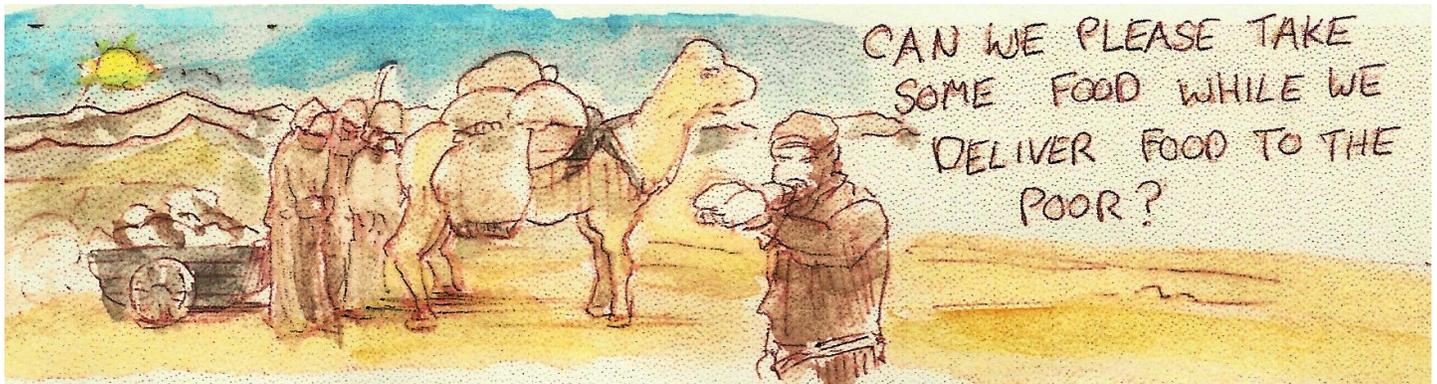
18\* What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

(1 Corinthians 9:11-18)

This was part of the book of 1 Corinthians in which Paul is talking about a ministers right to partake of what if being given to others. And he is absolutely right, and it makes common sense. But he is not asking for money from people that he ministered to--not at all. The full story is that Paul and his fellow workers received a word from the Lord that they ought to bring some help to the needy in Jerusalem (there's a clue about who we should give to!)

He suggested that the Christians in Corinth ought to collect for this purpose. Now he makes the case to them that it is okay for he and his fellow laborers who are traveling to deliver this collection have a right to partake of some of these supplies in order to live while they are doing this ministry. Yes he does use the comparison to the priests of the old testament--but look clearly how he makes the point that he does not ask or use this at all!

Here is what was really happening in 1 Corinthians....



So the truth is that the people in Corinth were also participating in the ministry with Paul-- they were not the ones receiving the ministry--the people in Jerusalem were. He was not saying they were partakers of his ministry so they ought to pay him somehow. Again this would be giving to oneself, but this is actually a very good example of how we ought to work together in serving God. If we took this example we would be on the right track with our giving--doing common sense decisions with the right idea of giving in our hearts.

Keep reading to see who you ought to give to.....

## How we ought to give as Christians....

In the new testament Bible 100% of the giving was toward the purposes of the Gospel.

Remember what Jesus said...

34\* Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35\* For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

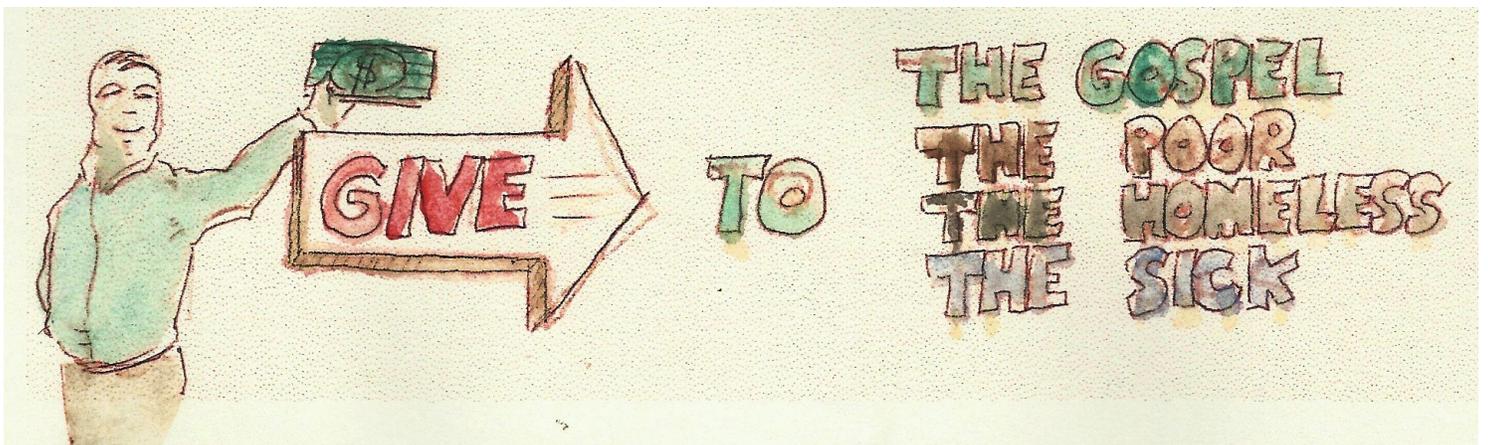
36\* Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37\* Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40\* And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye

have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. (Matthew 25: 34-40)



This is how Jesus told us to give....

But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: (Matthew 6:3)

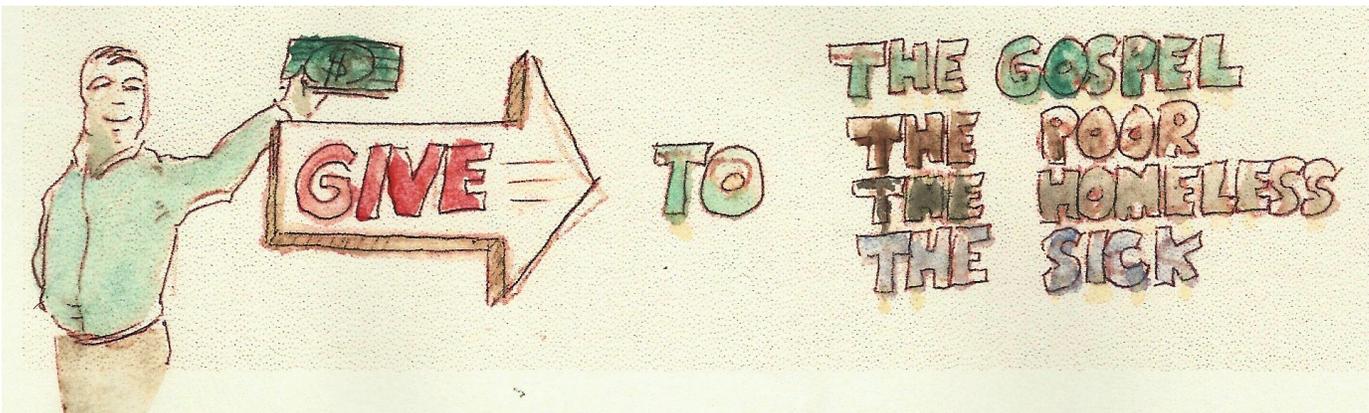
This simply means we should give freely to the needy. Jesus directed His ministry toward the needy. It's quite clear that Jesus spent much of His earthly ministry giving to the poor and oppressed and spreading the Gospel of salvation, healing and deliverance. The people in the Bible that followed after Him were doing the same.

Some look at the early church in Jerusalem and say that the goods/money was given to the apostles, the church leadership. Once again I find this to be using the Bible in an incomplete way...

34\* Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

35\* And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. (Acts 4:34-35)

They were giving to a distribution to the needy and poor within the church (and certainly to those outside the church as well) but they were also frequently witnessing the Gospel. So we could put the whole picture together and say those who had goods were being lead by God to give to the poor within the church (as directed by God who has all authority giving was NOT a repetitive ritual) so that none had needs, so that more people could therefore serve God more easily and spread the Gospel.



This “picture” of giving fits everywhere in the new testament.

The early church was not a "self-supporting" community it was a Gospel focused movement, lead by God in the specific ways needed at that place and time.

These areas of the Bible are not laws--they are examples of what God might want done. In order to further the Gospel He needs different things done, in different ways, by different people, today--but the basic and simple principles are the same!

This certainly was not the early church demonstrating a new testament rule that says paid professional leadership within the Christian community receives a paycheck every week!

Our priorities need to be in order if we are to understand how to give as Christians..

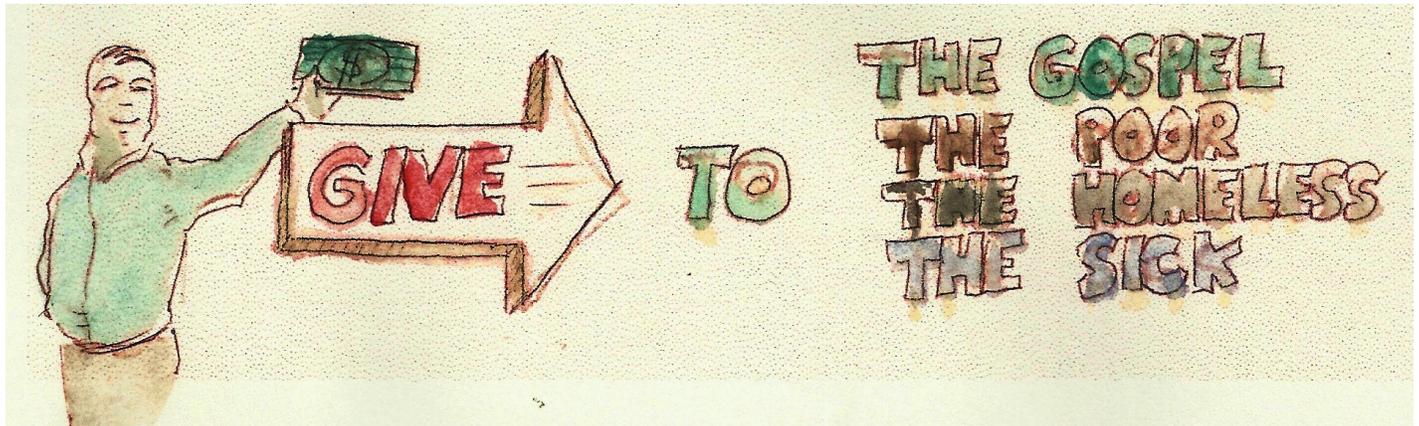
"But **seek ye first** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

1. Seek first God's authority His direction and plan for you. Of course this includes giving. God-lead giving is the kind to seek after!

2 and ...seek His righteousness...His righteous acts of ministry, meaning ask God how He wants you to serve Him (notice, traditional Christianity tells us to "seek first a meeting place and sit down and be a sheep"!) )

When you first seek Gods direct will and authority and find how He wants you to serve Him then, more than likely you will find other believers to work with, and your giving will fall under God's authority. But seek His will first, do not accept ritualistic giving!

So it' simple--give to the needy not yourself!



The truth is that the majority of believers do not have vast wealth or resources (I certainly include myself!) to give. So the suggestion the Bible is giving for most of us, is that it is far more useful to give of your time and your gifts and abilities that God has already given you.

If you write, write for God, if you draw or paint, do it for God. If you are strong use it for God, if you are smart use it for God. If you have compassion bring it to God's purposes--give to the needy and poor--visit those in prison--pray for the sick and help the oppressed.



Publish the Good News by all means at your disposal.

This is how to give.