The Blessed Giver
Acts 20:35

Introduction:

A. Blessed giver more than mere benefactor–a beneficiary (text; Phil. 4:10-12, 16-17)
B. Blessed giver more than mere donor–does it from heart. (1 Cor. 13:3).
C. Blessed giver has three wonderful traits:

Discussion:

I. The Blessed Giver Partakes Of The Divine Nature. (cf. 2 Pet. 1:4; Jas. 1:17)
   A. God gives us necessities of spiritual life. (2 Pet. 1:3)
      4. Grace (Jas. 4:6; Heb. 4:16).
   B. God gives us necessities of physical life. (Mt. 6:25,33)
      1. Suppose God gave only as we give.
      2. Need to share when we can. (1 Tim. 6:17-19).

II. The Blessed Giver First Gives Himself. (2 Cor. 8:2-5)
   A. Energy and time naturally follows. (Matt. 8:21-22)
   B. Material goods naturally follows. (1 John 3:17-18; Acts 20:34,35).

III. The Blessed Giver Gives To Please God. (Matt. 6:1-4).
   A. God pleased when Christians give to fellow man:
      1. To relieve needs. (Jas. 2:15-16; Acts 20:34).
      2. To share in gospel. (Gal. 6:6).
   B. God please when Christians give into church treasury.
      1. Regularly and proportionately (1 Cor. 16:2)
      2. Willingly (2 Cor. 8:11-12).
      3. Purposely and cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:6,7)–Not merely habitually.

Note: Law of Moses: 10% + special offerings + cost of pilgrimages + fields idle every 7 years = 25%-40% (cf. Prov. 3:9).

Conclusion:

1. We must give because we need it.
2. We must first give ourselves to the Lord–Why not now!