

GIVING

By Keith Greer

Today, we briefly examine some things the scriptures say about "**giving**."

God gave His Son. "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." (John 3:16) Our heavenly Father loved us, and He knew that without a perfect sacrifice, mankind had no remedy for his sin problem. Therefore, God gave His only begotten Son to sacrifice His life on the cross for our sins.

Christ gave Himself. "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." {Galatians 2:20} Why would God's beloved Son, Jesus Christ, leave heaven's beauty and splendor to come to this land of sin and sorrow? There were two reasons. First, He wanted to do His Father's will. Second, He wanted us to stand justified before God. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." {Romans 5:8}

Christians give themselves. "And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God." {2 Corinthians 8:5} God's children must be willing to give back to God for all He gave and continues to give us. How can we accomplish this duty? We must first "seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness." {Matthew 6:33} We must "seek things above and not the things of this world." {Colossians 3:1,2} We must place our treasures where "thieves cannot break through and steal." {Matthew 6:19-21}

To summarize, we must live for Christ. Christians will never be able to out-give God. He did for us what we could not do for ourselves. We can call on Him for help with meeting our needs or for other kinds of help while we live here on earth. In many prayers I've often heard the sentiment expressed, "**we own nothing but all things we do possess because of you and it belongs to you and we are but stewards of those blessings.**" Such statements are wonderful if one makes the proper applications of the sentiments in the actions of their lives. Yes, He gave everything for us – will we give everything for Him by demonstrating our love in word and deed? ***