

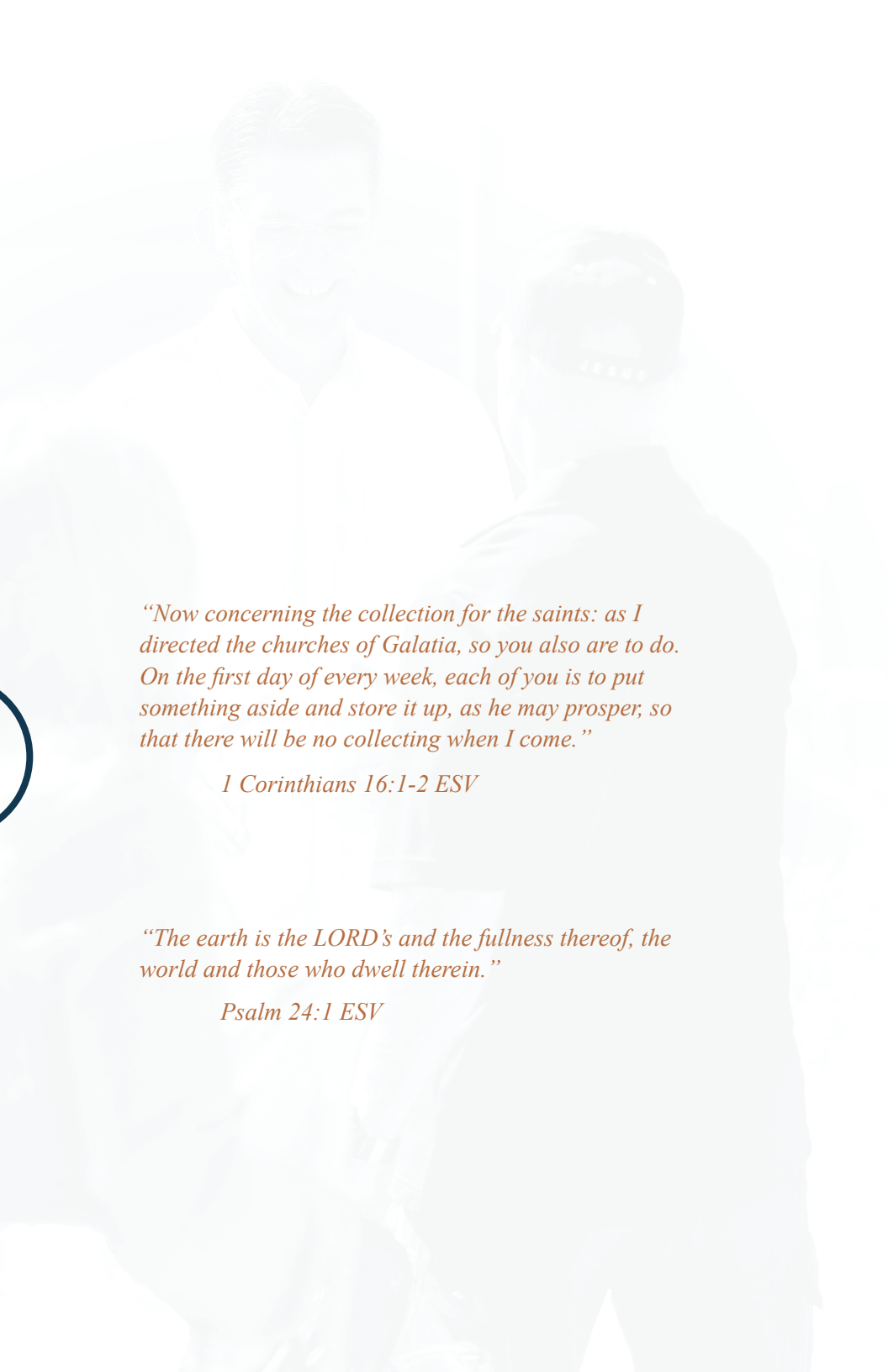


THEOLOGY ^{OF} STEWARDSHIP



THEOLOGY ^{OF} STEWARDSHIP

Big Valley Grace Community Church is committed to equipping followers of Jesus Christ to become fully mature disciples who apply biblical principles to every area of life. This includes learning to be faithful managers of the resources God has given to us. For Christians, giving is not just a financial act, but an act of worship and obedience, acknowledging God as the owner of all things. The amount we give is far less important than our heart and motive for giving.



“Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.”

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 ESV

“The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.”

Psalms 24:1 ESV

WHY SHOULD I GIVE?

There is a financial cost to providing ministry, and many Christians give because they are aware of the need. While there is nothing wrong with this reason for giving, it is not the highest and best motive. Churches and ministries have bills to pay and staff to support (1 Timothy 5:17-18), but our giving is not to be guided by sentiment and impulse but by principle and scripture.

Since God is the creator and owner of all things, (Psalms 24:1; 1 Timothy 6:7) our role and responsibility is to manage all that He has given us (Luke 16:10-13; 1 Corinthians 4:2). Jesus gives us a picture of what a faithful manager or steward will look like (Matthew 25:14-30) and someday we will be called into account by God for how we did our part (2 Corinthians 5:9-10). Giving to support the work of God and to help those in need is one way

we practice good management of our resources.

When we acknowledge God is the owner of all things and recognize all He has done because of His great love for us, we give as an act of worship for who He is, with an attitude of love and gratitude (Psalm 96:8). Giving is all about God, not about us.



GIVING PRINCIPLES

Our practice of giving is to be done with these **PRINCIPLES** according to these **VERSES**:

REGULARLY

On the first day of every week.

1 Corinthians 16:2 ESV

PROPORTIONATELY

Each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper.

1 Corinthians 16:2 ESV

SACRIFICIALLY

For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord.

2 Corinthians 8:3 ESV

GENEROUSLY

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

2 Corinthians 9:6 ESV

PURPOSEFULLY

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart.

2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV

WILLINGLY

Not reluctantly or under compulsion

2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV

JOYFULLY

For God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV

WHERE SHOULD I GIVE?

We believe the priority for giving is to be through the local church (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:3; 9:6-7). God appoints elders in the local church to direct the affairs of the church (1 Timothy 5:17). The leaders in the church were entrusted with the responsibility to manage the resources provided for His work. At Big Valley Grace, our general ministry fund supplies our ongoing gospel ministry efforts. We also employ the use of stewardship initiatives for the purpose of expanding our ministry. We challenge the members of our church to see participation in stewardship initiatives as “over and above” our regular giving to the general ministry

fund. Additionally, while we acknowledge the importance and value of other Christian organizations, we believe that Christians should prioritize giving first to their own local church, then “over and above” to support additional organizations.



“Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!”

Psalms 96:8 ESV

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

This is usually the first question asked, but it's the least important if you understand God's principles for giving. Since God already owns it all, the question is not how much do I give but how much do I keep? What is important is not the actual value of the gift but the value to you (Luke 21:1-4). This is the attitude of one who understands the joy of being a faithful steward.

While we will not advocate any form of legalism, God's standard for His people in the Old Testament was the tithe, a word which simply means "a tenth" or 10%. Tithing is mentioned in Genesis 14:20; 28:22; Leviticus 27:30-33; Deuteronomy 14:22-23, 28; and Malachi 3:6-12. It should be noted that the example of giving 10% of what God provides pre-dates the giving of the Law (Genesis 14:20; 28:22).

Although the New Testament does not prescribe the tithe for the Christian, it teaches us to give systematically, proportionately, generously, and cheerfully. Should we, who are not under the Law but under grace, who enjoy material blessings far greater than those who were required under the Law to give a tithe, who have received so much from God, give less or more? (Luke 12:48). For many Christians the practice of giving a percentage of income received is a way to follow the instruction of giving regularly and proportionately, as God has blessed us. As we grow in spiritual maturity, we also grow in this grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).

"Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine."

Proverbs 3:9-10 ESV

HOW DO I GIVE?

When we understand that giving is an act of worship and our responsibility is to be faithful managers, generous giving becomes a part of our lifestyle. In 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, the Bible gives us principles, by way

of example, for how to give. While many of the principles can be followed and measured by observation, God is most concerned about the state of our hearts when we give (Psalm 51:16-17; Micah 6:6-8).

WAYS TO GIVE

IN-PERSON

During a weekend worship gathering

ONLINE

Visit bvg.org/give

TEXT GIVING

1. Text the amount you would like to give to our designated text giving number: 209-252-3583
2. Follow the instructions on your cell phone

MAIL-IN


Big Valley Grace Community Church
4040 Tully Road, Modesto, CA 95356




SUMMARY

God is the owner of all things and has called us to be managers of all He has given us. Giving with a right heart is an act of worship that brings glory to God and joy to the giver.

If you would like more information about what we believe, please contact Big Valley Grace Community Church at 209-577-1604 and ask to speak to a pastor, or contact us through our website.





“So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction. The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:5-7 ESV

