



Sermon Study Questions
Week of December 4, 2011

In God We Trust
“The Miracle of Giving Up”
Pastor Bob Botsford

Message available at www.horizon.org/archive

Main Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Referenced Scripture: Exodus 36:2-7, 1 Chronicles 29:6-15, Nehemiah 7:66-72, Matthew 6:33, Haggai 1:3-8, Psalm 37:1-8, 25-26

OPEN:

1. What in particular spoke to you from Pastor Bob’s message?
2. Many people mistakenly view giving as *to* the church” rather than *through* the church. How would you make this important distinction?

DIG DEEPER:

1. In His message, Pastor Bob spoke of “A Trinity of Blessing” waiting for us, and “A Trinity of False Blessing”. The first one speaks of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and living to honor and glorify God. The other speaks of me, mine, and more, and living for self. In what way does one describe the true Christian and the other describe the way of the world?
2. Paul tells us in **2 Corinthians 9:7** that giving should be a matter of the heart. How can understanding this premise change ones outlook on giving?
3. In **2 Corinthians 9:11, 15** Paul speaks of the liberal, or generous giver. What has hindered you from becoming a liberal giver?
4. Someone you know may trust Jesus with their future, but not with their finances. What would you say to such a one to encourage them about the Lord’s faithfulness and sovereignty?
5. What does it mean to live financially below your means, and live spiritually above you means? Describe these principles, and how they influence one?
6. In what way could the example of generous giving found in **Exodus 36:2-7** change a church? Where does a movement like this need to begin? How does this passage speak to your own heart?

REFLECT:

1. What does your own stewardship of the finances God has entrusted to you reveal to you about your faith, hope, and love?
2. How can you move from a being a giver to a generous giver?

MEMORY VERSE:

2 Corinthians 9:7

“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”