

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

A (Somewhat) Brief Series of Articles to
Answer Lost Mountain's Most Pressing Questions...



WHY DO AN OFFERING DURING THE SERVICE?

Matt Jeffreys,
Senior Pastor

Over the past 10-15 years a growing number of churches have stopped doing an offering as part of the worship service. They have a box in the foyer where attendees can drop in an offering if they wish, or drop boxes on the wall like the ones we used heavily during earlier stages of the Covid pandemic.

The thinking behind dropping the offering is that doing an offering during the worship service can come across like all the church cares about is money. This is the most frequent reason given. It may also make people feel guilty if they "can't afford to give." While I respect this line of thinking, I believe it is completely wrong, I also believe it contributes over time to a spiritually anemic church and a diluted understanding of discipleship.

Here are a few reasons why we receive an offering as a part of our weekly worship services...

A FEW REASONS WHY..

(1) It reminds us, through teaching and practice, that giving is an act of worship (Matt. 6:21).

There are few things that so directly reveal (and shape) the true nature of our hearts like what we do with our money. It shows what we truly value—what we really believe is supreme. Generous, proportional, consistent giving is part of discipleship. It is a practice as ancient as prayer. To follow Jesus is to live “open-handedly” because we know that everything we have belongs to him and is to be used for his glory.

“Jesus Christ said more about money than about any other single thing because, when it comes to a person’s real nature, money is of first importance. Money is an exact index to a person’s true character. All through Scripture there is an intimate correlation between the development of a person’s character and how he or she handles their money.”

—RICHARD HALVERSON

(2) It is a declaration of trust—a tangible act of faith in God (Prov. 3:9-10).

Part of the reason we are taught in Scripture to give a portion “off the top” of what we receive in pay/resources—a practice often referred to as the “principle of first fruits”—is because God is trying to teach us something. He wants us to know in practice that he is our ultimate provider. He really will take care of us.

When we give regularly and make it a priority each time we are paid (rather than waiting to see if we have anything “left over” to give), we are demonstrating to God that we sincerely trust him and have faith that he will continue to provide for us.

We also demonstrate to those around us—our children, friends, church, watching world—that we do indeed trust the goodness and faithfulness of God.

(3) It is an act of obedience and in keeping with what we see in God’s Word and throughout church history (Deut. 16:17; 2 Chron. 31:13; Lk. 6:38, 11:42; 2 Cor. 9:6-15)

The Bible contains more than 2,300 verses that deal with money and material resources. It’s truly astounding! In his exhaustive book, *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*, Randy Alcorn asks a series of rhetorical and thoughtful questions:

“How could the Bible’s Author and Editor justify devoting twice as many verses to money than to faith and prayer combined? How could Jesus say more about money than both heaven and hell? Didn’t he know what was really important?”

This reality, combined with the transformation the Holy Spirit brings in those who belong to Jesus, is why the church throughout history has been known for radical generosity. Regularly, biblically-faithful, sacrificial giving has characterized the true church since her birth in Acts 2. We want to be upfront and honest about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. All we have belongs to him.

Receiving an offering every week allows us to consistently call our church to obedience in this area of life, to worship through giving, and to declare our trust in God in a tangible way. It helps us teach and cultivate generosity. It reflects the priority that God puts in Scripture on how we handle our money and possessions. For these reasons and so many more, we unapologetically, enthusiastically, and intentionally do a weekly offering as an important part of our worship service.