



SEE IT

Proverbs 19:17 If you help the **poor**, you are lending to the Lord— and he will repay you!

OBEY IT

Grace is free, but ministry takes resources. If God has blessed you, he did so that you can be a blessing to others. He gave you money for 3 reasons:

1. It should be saved. Financial experts say that at least five percent of what we earn should be saved every time we're paid. When we save, we do three things:

- a. We're preparing for the unexpected.
- b. We're making sure our children will have a better chance for success.
- c. We're obeying what the Bible commands.

2. It should be shared. When we give, we benefit others and advance the kingdom of God on Earth. A philanthropist once said, "I give my money with a shovel to God, and He does the same. But the interesting thing is that His shovel is a lot bigger than mine." When we give first to God, we are declaring spiritually that we are givers first and consumers second.

3. It should be enjoyed. The following biblical passage clearly establishes this principle: "Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to *enjoy* them, to accept his lot and be *happy* in his work—this is a gift of God. (Ecclesiastes 5:19, emphasis supplied). We must avoid extremes. We should not consume addictively but should spend wisely, and from time to time do some fun things and participate in activities we can enjoy, especially if we have families. How will you use the resources God has given you to bless others this week?

SHARE IT

1. Pay the toll for the person behind you.
2. Tape a nice saying or thought to a bus window.
3. Donate one of your favorite possessions. Or 10% of your clothing.

My Prayer Today:

Father, help me realize how blessed I am. Thanks for allowing me to bless someone today that is less fortunate than myself. Amen.

My Thoughts _____



SEE IT

Mathew 23:5 "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide, and the tassels on their garments long,"

OBEY IT

Every act has its motivation. God not only sees the acts, He knows the intentions of the heart. Have you ever asked yourself, "Why do I serve?" These are some of the common motivators for serving:

- Habit: That's what you were taught; you got used to serving.
- Obligation: If you don't serve, you can't take part, so you serve.
- Fear: If you stop serving, you worry something bad might happen to you.
- Peer Pressure: Everyone in your family and church serves, so you also serve.
- You Were Asked: Someone asked you to serve, so you serve.
- Self-interest: You want more blessings. You've heard that if you serve, you will get it.
- Influence: When you serve in significant ways, your opinion seems to count more.
- Legalism: You believe that the act of serving wins you salvation, or at least it helps.
- Competition: You want your church, group, or family to serve more than _____.

Why do you serve? What is the real reason? Let's serve simply:

- Because God served us first. Let's serve because of what God did.
- Because we want God to know that we recognize His sovereignty and power over our lives.
- Because we love God and can't keep from serving. Not serving is no longer an option.

SHARE IT

1. Let someone get ahead of you in line.
2. Listen intently.
3. Prepare a nutritious sack lunch for a homeless person.

My Prayer Today:

Jesus, I want to serve you and your people for the right reasons. Help me do that. Amen.

My Thoughts _____
