

Sermon on the Amount

by Tony Melton

Some preachers teach Bible topics from the Sermon on the Mount, while others are obsessed with sermons on *the amount*. They are more concerned with the collection than with saving the lost.

It is true that the contribution is a Bible subject, but it is also true that the Bible gives regulations on giving. I Corinthians 16:1,2 says: "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come."

From these verses we conclude that the apostle had given orders pertaining to the collection to churches in various regions. He also showed when the collection was to be taken. He said, "On the first day of the week" which is Sunday. Now, we might ask, "Where do the preachers or 'pastors' today get the authority to take up collections on Wednesday, Thursday or some other day?" The answer is quite simple: They do it by their own authority, because no permission is given in the Bible for taking up a collection other than on Sunday.

In addition to this, many non-Christians have become very disgusted with the "money-begging pastors" that constantly ask the public for "love offerings" in the name of Christ. Because of this unscriptural and, I might add, ungodly practice, many people will have nothing to do with Christianity. False teachers make perpetual "blanket pleas" without discrimination of the Christian or non-Christian audience for more money. In First Corinthians 16:1, 2, the commandment was for Christians to give. It was not given to those who are not Christians. Surely, one would not think that the cause of Christ should be supported by unbelievers.

Giving is an important Bible subject, but many have perverted God word concerning this matter. Covetousness and the love of money has brought the downfall of many men and women. However, there can be nothing more sinful and evil than pleading for money in the name of Jesus Christ in order to pad one's bank account. Peter warns, "By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words" (2 Peter 2:3).