

Reading: Matthew 10:7,8

Topic: Receiving, Keeping
& Giving

INTRODUCTION: We who are born into the Kingdom of God have been _____ to have received the best _____ in the world and we choose whether to just _____ it to ourselves or to share it with others.

I. RECEIVERS:

A. *Salvation:*

1. When we understand just how lost and hopeless we were without _____ in our lives, the fact that He provided us a way to be _____ is an undeserved miracle of His grace. Eph. 2:8
2. How special it is that God provided for someone to bring the _____ to us and our family in our own city, town or village, or in our school or _____ of work or our neighborhood. Rom. 10:14

B. *Our Choice:*

1. We one day made a choice to believe and _____ this great salvation that God offered to everyone who desires to be _____. Mark 16:15,16
2. When we believed, we repented of our _____ and were baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ and then received the Gift of the Holy Spirit, thus making us recipients and partakers of _____ salvation. Eph. 1:13

C. *Gifts & Talents:*

1. In addition to the wonderful gift of salvation that we have _____, God also has given to every individual certain special _____ - gifts and talents that are special to us. I Cor. 12:4-7
2. The gifts and talents and abilities are given to us – not to make us _____ or heroes, but to be used to glorify God and to _____ to others.

II. KEEPERS:

A. *Sharing:*

1. One of the traits of our fallen _____ nature is that of selfishness and it manifests itself even when we are small children and we do not want to _____ our toys with another child.
2. This trait also manifests itself in adult life and causes conflicts in marriages and _____ with people each wanting something for themselves but not wanting to _____ in order to help others. Ja. 4:1

B. *Displeasing to God:*

1. One of the things that Jesus taught was that His children were not to be just _____ of salvation and gifts that He has _____ to us. Matt. 10:7,8
2. Jesus made it clear that His _____ that He put in us was not to be just kept to ourselves, but it was to be visible to others in the way that we _____ our lives here on earth. Matt. 5:14-16

C. *Examples:*

1. One of the Old Testament prophets did not want to _____ the message of God with a city that God sent him to _____ to and he had to learn a very difficult lesson. Jonah 1:1-3

2. In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus gave a very _____ message that when the Master gives to us the gifts, abilities and talents, just keeping them to ourselves is a great _____ to Him. Mt. 25:24-30
3. One of Jesus' chosen disciples, Judas Iscariot was a receiver of a _____ from the Master, but became a selfish _____ instead of a giver and it led to his downfall. Acts 1:17-20

III. GIVERS:

A. *The Way of Blessing:*

1. The Word of God is full of examples of what happens when people choose to be _____ of what God has given to them and reveals the _____ that they receive in return. Acts 20:35
2. Jesus spoke many times about the purpose of God _____ to us so that in turn we will give unto others, which in turn again will bring more _____ to us again. Lk. 6:38

B. *Rivers, Not Reservoirs:*

1. We were designed by God to be rivers, a body of _____ that _____ - it receives from a continual source and then continually _____ out, giving of its water. Jn. 7:37,38
2. Reservoirs are places that receive _____ and stores it for future or emergency use, but it has no real _____ to it and it can become stagnant. Jer. 48:11

C. *In Many Ways:*

1. When we talk of _____, often we think of giving of our _____, which is also part of the plan of God and it is very important, but there are also other _____ in which we should give.
2. If God has given unto us some _____ or talent, it should be given back to Him in some way that will bless and _____ unto others.
3. List several of your talents and abilities: _____

4. Question: Are you using these things to honor the _____ and to be a blessing and to minister to the Body of Christ?

CONCLUSION: We need to ask ourselves this question – Am I a receiver, a keeper or a giver? May we be wise and realize that the channel to _____ is through giving so that others will be helped and that in turn God will pour more into us to be an even greater blessing!