

Giving 3: God the Giver

Christ Church: 13th February 2022 10.00 am. & online
1 Chronicles 29:10-20; Psalm 95:1-7a

We need to get to a mountain top to see the world and our place in it in some form of perspective. We come to church on a Sunday, partly to recalibrate our lives after a week of soaking up the godless values of the world around us. And to approach the topic of giving, and this is the third and final sermon in this mini-series, we do well to start with God the Giver, not with our meagre offerings.

If we start by thinking about *our* money and *our* giving, we put this vital topic out of focus. If we start with God the Giver we see the subject in a completely different light. Let me explain. I have four core points to make about God which arise from our readings today and other Scriptures. You will see why these points are CORE.

1: God the Trinity is Creator of all

Genesis 1: the Bible starts with creation. 'In the beginning God created' with the Spirit (Gen 1:2) but also with the Son (John 1:3) 'through him all things were made'. Psalm 95:5,6 'The sea is his for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land' We are to worship 'The Lord our Maker'. God, Father, Son and Spirit made all we see of creation and he made you and me.

The correct place to start in a world that puts self at the centre.

2: God the Father is Owner of all

But not only is he creator – he is owner of all creation.
1Chron 29:11 'Everything in heaven and earth is yours'.
v12 'Wealth and honour --- the ruler of all things'.
v14 'Everything comes from you'.
v16 'All of it belongs to you'.
Ps 95:4,5 'The mountain peaks belong to him ...the sea is his'.

The correct place to start in a world that is obsessed with our rights and our possessions, all we own.

3: God the Son is Redeemer of his people

1 Chron 29 talks about *his* people. v10 'God of our Father Israel' and v18 too. Ps 95:1 'the Rock of our salvation' – we are saved.

v7 'He is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care'.

Even more so for us: 1 Cor 6:19,20; 7:23 we are 'bought at a price'. Christians are God's special people, bought back by Jesus on the cross. God gave everything to buy us back. He owns you in a special way, and (key point) all your wealth and possessions are his.

The correct place to start in a world that does not see sin in all.

4: God the Spirit is Enabler of his people

1 Chron 29:14 'Who am I and who are my people that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you....'. John 14:15-21 we have the Spirit to enable us to give from what is already God's.

The correct place to start in a world that believes we are able to do anything.

Application

Four core points, C.O.R.E Creator, Owner, Redeemer, Enabler.

- 1 If you're a disciple of Jesus, with him as Lord and Saviour, you are made by him, owned by him and redeemed by him.
- 2 If God is the owner of you, then he owns all you have: your house, your car, your phone, your most precious possession.
- 3 So you cannot be a 'giver', you are a 'steward' or 'manager' of all you have, which all belongs to God.
- 4 So we give not 10% but 100%. 'Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold'. Christ gave everything for us (Phil 2:5-8), we are to give him everything in return.
- 5 As steward we of course need to live but we also spend to relieve poverty, to enable the gospel to be preached, and to maintain this church which needs £3,000 per week.

We all as Christians have the privilege of managing 'our' possessions and 'our' bank accounts as the Spirit enables us.

We need a mountain to see ourselves in perspective. We come to church on Sunday to recalibrate our lives. If we start with God, our **C**reator, our **O**wner, our **R**edeemer and our **E**abler, God who has given everything for you, for me, and our giving of 100% of our life, our time, our money is our true worship.