



Faith Talk

Trinity Canadian Reformed Church

Worshiping Sundays 9 am and 3 pm, 2553 Binbrook Rd E

Church and Giving

By Nathan Helder

This topic is difficult because we live in a society which is very materialistic. That is, our society puts considerable emphasis on having material possessions, insisting those possessions are our own, and encouraging us to enjoy them to the fullest. We're expected to keep up with our neighbour, having the latest and the best. Did you know that the average 2003 donor in Ontario contributed 0.6 % of their total income, a mere \$270.00 per year to a charitable organization? Not too impressive. So, how are we really supposed to live?

In Psalm 24, David writes: "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein" (vs. 1). That is a statement of ownership: this earth with all that's in it belongs to God. This includes the shoes on our feet, the vehicles in our car garage, the beds in our homes, and the contents of our bank accounts. This means that before God, we are not the owners of our property, but rather are stewards or managers of the property that belongs to God. God has given certain things to each person. Normally He gives parts of His possessions to us through our diligent work.

The Lord Jesus Christ instructed people to give back to God what is His, the 'first fruits.' The Lord asks us first of all for money for the Church, for work in God's kingdom. Sometimes one gets the impression that people see the Church as something extra, a luxury. First this, then something else... and yes, then comes the Church. We must be willing to give from the heart when we are asked to contribute to the work of the Lord. Giving is a response of thanks to God for giving us the gift of Jesus. Anytime God blesses you with your compensation, your paycheck, make the next line in your checkbook a first fruit gift to God.

Nathan Helder is a member of Trinity Canadian Reformed Church

<http://www.trinitycanrc.org>

Contact us at faithtalk@trinitycanrc.org