

Deane Church + Lostock Church w/b Sunday 10th June 2018

The grace of giving

Giving and good stewardship of the material things that God has entrusted to us are a core part of Christian discipleship, which is why from time to time we cover them in the Bible teaching & study programme. For many however, this subject can be difficult – for various reasons. If you are doing this study with others, please be sensitive to this.

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money*."

Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 6)

*literally 'mammon' = money/wealth personified

'For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.'

The Apostle Paul writing to Timothy (1Tim 6)

'The problem with money is that we think we own it...'

Nicky Gumbel in *Challenging Lifestyle*

1. Taking each of the above quotes in turn, discuss in your group how they can help us to have a Biblical attitude towards money.
2. *"We shouldn't preach about money in Sunday services... it puts off visitors"*. Does it?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

3. Four times in this passage, Paul uses the word **grace**. Consider each mention in turn and what it says to us about giving.
4. How is **giving** to the gospel work of a church linked to a person's **vision** for the gospel work of that church?
5. How then should we responsibly decide just how much money to give to the work of the Gospel through Deane Parish Church?

And something to think about during the week: When you are with the Lord in Paradise and your *Last Will and Testament* is being read on earth... how much of God's money does God's work get?

TC 8-vi-18