

## Americans Are Richer But Less Generous

**A recent study revealed that from 1968 to the present American's personal incomes rose by 137% while their giving declined by 28%! So, we have more money yet we are giving less to the Church. Now Americans give just a fraction above 2% of their disposable incomes to the Church. The worst year of The Great Depression in 1933 Americans gave 3.2% of their incomes to the Church!**

What does this decline mean? It means that billions of dollars every year are lost that could have gone to further the Gospel. The study revealed that if Americans gave at the same rate today as they did in 1968 that the Church would have over \$8 billion more dollars this year to do missions and ministry.

What is amazing is that if you have \$3,650 including the value of your home you are in the wealthiest half of people in the world. Having \$77,000, including the value of your house puts you in the top 10% globally. A 2012 study showed that an annual income of \$34K placed you in the richest 1% of people in the world! You didn't know you were the 1% did you?

Jesus said, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." As we start thinking about Thanksgiving and all the blessings God has given us. Let's use our blessings to bless others. Every gift you give us we use faithfully to extend the Kingdom of God. So thank you for your generosity!