

## Who Benefits When You Give?

**I want to set the stage for our offering today by asking who benefits when you give?** Have you ever thought about that? I think a lot of us never give the offering much thought at all. For most churches it is just something they always do like clockwork. Every week, 52 weekends a year they pass an offering plate or basket. People get used to the offering. Most never give it a thought even when they put something into the offering.

Here we have a different approach. We believe the offering is worship. A chance for us to give back to God a portion of what He has given us. We do that out of obedience. Yet even this act of obedience if we are not careful can become automatic and even mundane. So, we try to always make our offerings meaningful and worshipful.

One way we do that is by sharing with you what your gifts accomplish. For instance because of your giving last year we were able to...

- Share some mission story that members supported through their giving.
- Share about how children were impacted by VBS or another ministry funded by members giving.
- Think of one to three points to focus on that you were able to do because members gave.

Your generosity helps us accomplish all of this and more.

So, that is one answer to the question, who benefits when you give? But let me give you another one. A benefit that some might think is selfish but is none the less another benefit that you and I receive when we give. Proverbs 11:25 says, "A generous man will prosper: he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." So, when you give to support our work you bless others but at the same time you are blessed.

That is just one of a multitude of Bible verses that promises us that when we are generous God blesses us as well. We don't give to get but it is a biblical principle that, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

Today as you give you have an opportunity to bless our work for Christ becoming a blessing. At the same time God will respond to your generosity by blessing your life.

Who benefits when you give? Everyone, including you! Let's give generously today!