

Black congregations back NSU

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for the first students, clergy taught biblical literature courses, and faculty spoke to black congregations at Sunday services to promote the school.

In the 1940s, the school became independent and publicly supported—typically something that spells an end to any church ties.

Representatives at nearby

Old Dominion University and The College of William and Mary said they don't target the faith community for financial support.

But some in area black churches see aiding the campuses that educate their youth as a duty.

"I doubt if you'd find many families in the black community who didn't have relatives who attended Norfolk State

and are doing better because they got that education," said the Rev. Joe B. Fleming of Third Baptist Church.

Third Baptist has made a five-year pledge of \$32,500 to Norfolk State.

"We have to be about transforming the world," said Fleming, who's interest in aiding Norfolk State was sharpened this spring by the General Assembly's refusal to

approve proposed funding for the university's library.

Like others, he said his congregants feel the school doesn't always get a fair piece of the state financial pie.

"They want to see NSU funded at the same level as other institutions in this area," he said.

Why might the Corinthians be embarrassed?

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nians who traveled with him. He did not want to appear to have overstated the willingness of the Corinthians to give.

Not only would he be embarrassed, but the Corinthians would be as well. Paul was concerned about putting them in an awkward position. As any responsible father would do-and rather than having all parties involved find themselves in an embarrassing situation, Paul urged the brethren receiving the offering to come early and assist the Corinthians in finalizing their plans.

GIVING CHEERFULLY:

2 Corinthians 9:6-9.

3. How does the law of sowing and reaping apply to giving?

The law of sowing and reaping directly relates to giving in that it explains that those who give greatly will be greatly blessed, and those who give in moderation will be blessed in moderation. This principle does not invite us to only give much in order to receive much in return. In truth, we are not

guaranteed to receive an in-kind blessing at all after giving. What we are guaranteed is to have our needs supplied, and to receive the joy that comes after giving to those in need.

This is a satisfaction that greatly outweighs any material gain-knowing that we are honoring God when we give. He sees all and knows all anyway. He rewards us according to His grace and to our needs. "You Can't Beat God Giving" is not only a song penned by composer Doris Akers in 1958. It is a testament to God's goodness to His obedient children. The words are:

CHORUS:

You can't beat God giving, no matter how you try.

And just as sure as you are living and the Lord is in heaven on high.

The more you give the more He gives to you.

But keep on giving because it's really true,

That you can't beat God giving, no matter how you try.

VERSES:

Should we receive and never

give?

The Savior died that we might live.

His life on Calvary He gladly gave,

Our sinful souls to save.

He gives me health, He keeps me strong.

He guides me when I would go wrong.

He gives me everything that I need.

My every hunger He feeds.

He gave me peace, He made me whole.

And when in sin He saved my soul.

And what I give would never be compared

With the blessing that I share.

(The New National Baptist Hymnal, No. 383; Published by National Baptist Publishing Board, Nashville, TN, 1977; Manna Music, Inc.)

4. What are some rules to keep in mind when deciding what and how to give?

Paul had already encouraged the Corinthians giving so they would not be embarrassed, and in verse 7 he gives additional rules concerning

Christian stewardship or accountability-rules that can be applied to our giving today.

First, each of us must decide in our hearts what we are going to give. We do not want to be like the hypocritical Pharisees who gave for show only and not for the needs of the recipients.

Second, we should always give purposefully and not hesitantly or "grudgingly" as the Bible says. There is nothing worse than giving with a pang of conscience and then wishing later that you never gave in the first place. Third, we should give freely without having to be made to feel guilty by another party. This is what is called giving out "of necessity."

And lastly, we should give in a spirit of "cheerfulness," not one of sadness-as if sad to see your gift leave your hands. Those who give cheerfully are doubly blessed because of the tremendous amount of inward satisfaction that takes place.

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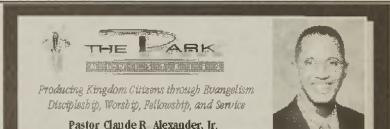
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