

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

May 4, 2015

Giving as God Gives

ACTS 4:32 NKJV – (32) Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

We must delve further to understand that the act of selling was the owners', as was the act of handing the proceeds to the Apostles. The community had nothing to do with the money until it was given to them. Further, the distribution was not determined by the rule of equality, but by the 'need' of the recipients; its result was not that all had share and share alike, but that 'none lacked.'

There is nothing of modern communism in all this, but there is a lesson to the modern Church in terms of its obligations regarding wealth and brotherhood, which is all but universally disregarded. The scales of communism trouble every nation. It will become more and more difficult unless the Church lives by the precepts of Jesus, and reverts, in a new form, the spirit of the primitive Church. The Christian sense of stewardship, not the abolition of the right of property, is the cure to counteract the hideous fact which drive men to cry 'property is theft'.

Great care ought to be taken in the distribution of public charity- that it be given to such as have need, such as are not able to procure a maintenance for themselves those who are reduced to want for well-doing, and for the testimony of a good conscience., Here is one in particular mentioned, remarkable for this generous charity; it was Barnabas. As one designed to be a preacher of the gospel, he disentangled himself from the affairs of this life. When such dispositions prevail, and are exercised according to the circumstances of the times, the testimony will have very great power upon others.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

May 1, 2015

