



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

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## The Grace of Giving

*1 Corinthians 16:1-4*

Part 2

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

*Matthew 6:19-21*



But seek first the kingdom of  
God and His righteousness, and  
all these things will be added  
unto you.

*Matthew 6:33*

**FIRST THINGS FIRST**





Aristedes of Athens

125 AD

The background of the image is a blurred, high-angle shot of a green field, likely a grassy area or a field of crops, with a yellow oval border. The text is centered within this oval.

**The world noticed their  
generosity before they  
understood their theology.**

By this shall all men know that  
ye are my disciples, if you have  
love for one another.

*John 13:35*



# Principles of Grace-giving:

- How should I give? *“the collection of the saints”*
- When should I give? *“upon the first day of the week”*
- Who should give? *“Let every one of you”*
- Where should I give? *“lay by him in store”*
- How much should I give? *“as God has prospered Him”*
- Why should I give? *“as I have given order to churches”*
- How should the church handle the offerings of God’s people (vv. 3-4)

Principle 1:

**God wants to use you  
to meet the needs of  
His kingdom.**

- How should I give?  
Give with purpose.

*“the collection for the saints”*

The background of the image is a blurred, vertical view of a green field, possibly a golf course or a large lawn, with a yellow oval border framing the central text.

**Biblical giving always has a target; it aims at real needs and real impact.**

Principle 2:

**God wants to give in a systematic manner.**

- When should I give?  
Give consistently.

*“upon the first day of the week”*

**Question #1: How did we go from worshipping on the Sabbath (which in the OT was Saturday) to Sunday?**

- 1. It all started on Jesus' resurrection day (Jn. 20:19, 26).**
- 2. When we get to Acts, the early Christians begin gathering on Sundays (Acts 20:6-7).**
- 3. In Revelation, the first day of the week has a name (Rev. 1:10).**

# **Question #1: How did we go from worshipping on the Sabbath (which in the OT was Saturday) to Sunday?**

## **4. Some direction:**

- Col. 2:16 - “don’t allow any man to judge you in regard to the Sabbath”**
- The observance of the Sabbath is the only one of the 10 Commandments not repeated in the New Testament.**

**5. The pattern in the NT is the Sabbath being set aside in favor of resurrection day.**

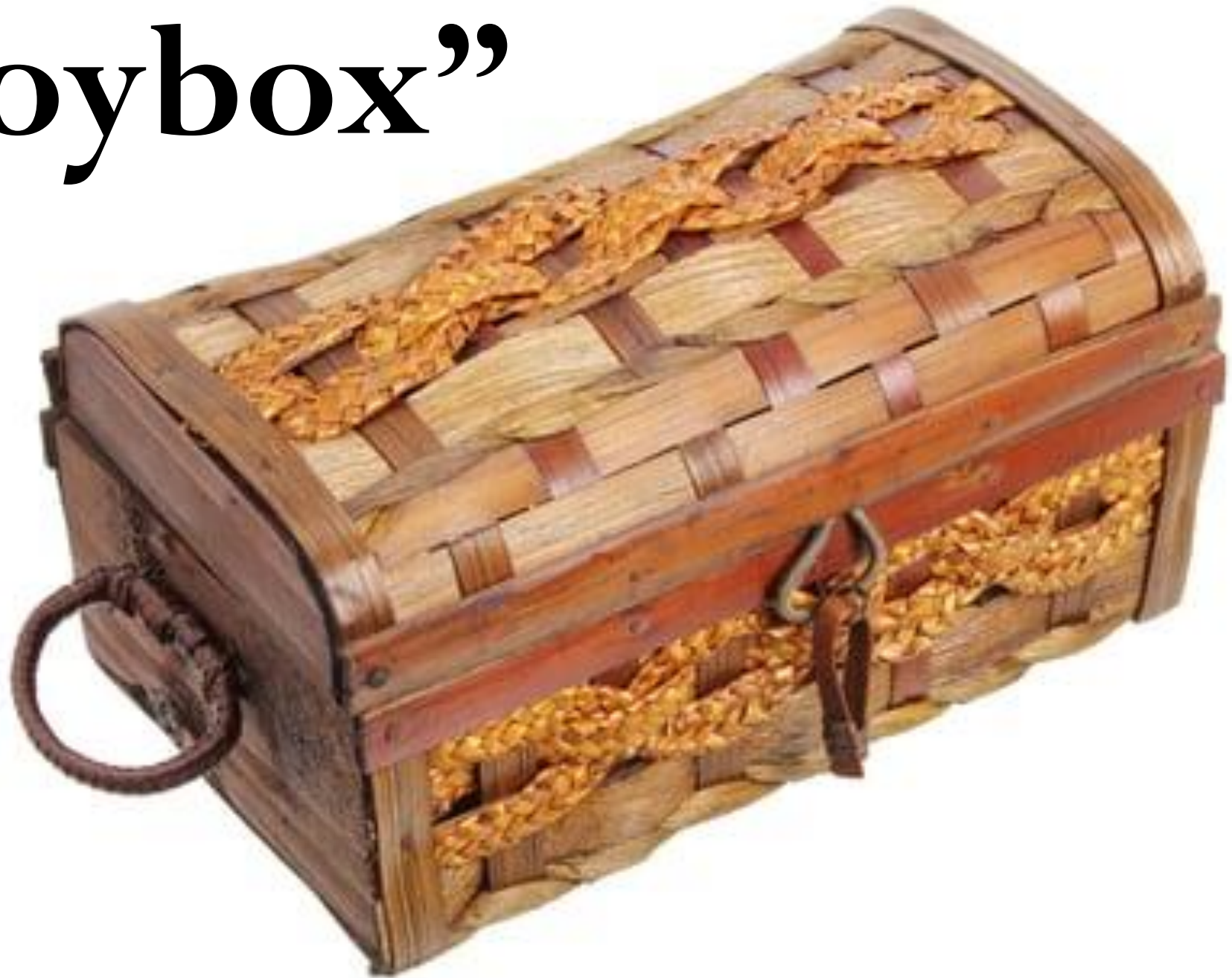
**6. Paul teaches an offering on the First Day of the week, because that was established as the NT day of worship (1 Cor. 16:1-4).**

**Question #2: Why does he make it weekly? Why was Paul so definite about this collection being taken in a systematic manner on the first day of the week?**

**1. Consistency builds discipline. Regular, systematic giving encourages proper stewardship.**



“joybox”



**Question #2: Why does he make it weekly? Why was Paul so definite about this collection being taken in a systematic manner on the first day of the week?**

- 1. Consistency builds discipline. Regular, systematic giving encourages proper stewardship.**
- 2. Discipline shapes your heart. Systematic giving encourages weekly sensitivity.**



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**Question #2: Why does he make it weekly? Why was Paul so definite about this collection being taken in a systematic manner on the first day of the week?**

- 1. Consistency builds discipline. Regular, systematic giving encourages proper stewardship.**
- 2. Discipline shapes your heart. Systematic giving encourages weekly sensitivity.**
- 3. And your heart drives your life. Systematic giving encourages willing sacrifice. It grows your joy!**



**Joy grows where generosity  
becomes normal.**

Give, and it will be given to you.  
Good measure, pressed down,  
shaken together, running over,  
will be put into your lap. For with  
the measure you use it will be  
measured back to you.

*Luke 6:38*



Don't give grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

 *2 Corinthians 9:7*



**You don't drift into generosity  
- you decide into it.**

Principle 3:

**God wants you (*every one of you*) to give.**

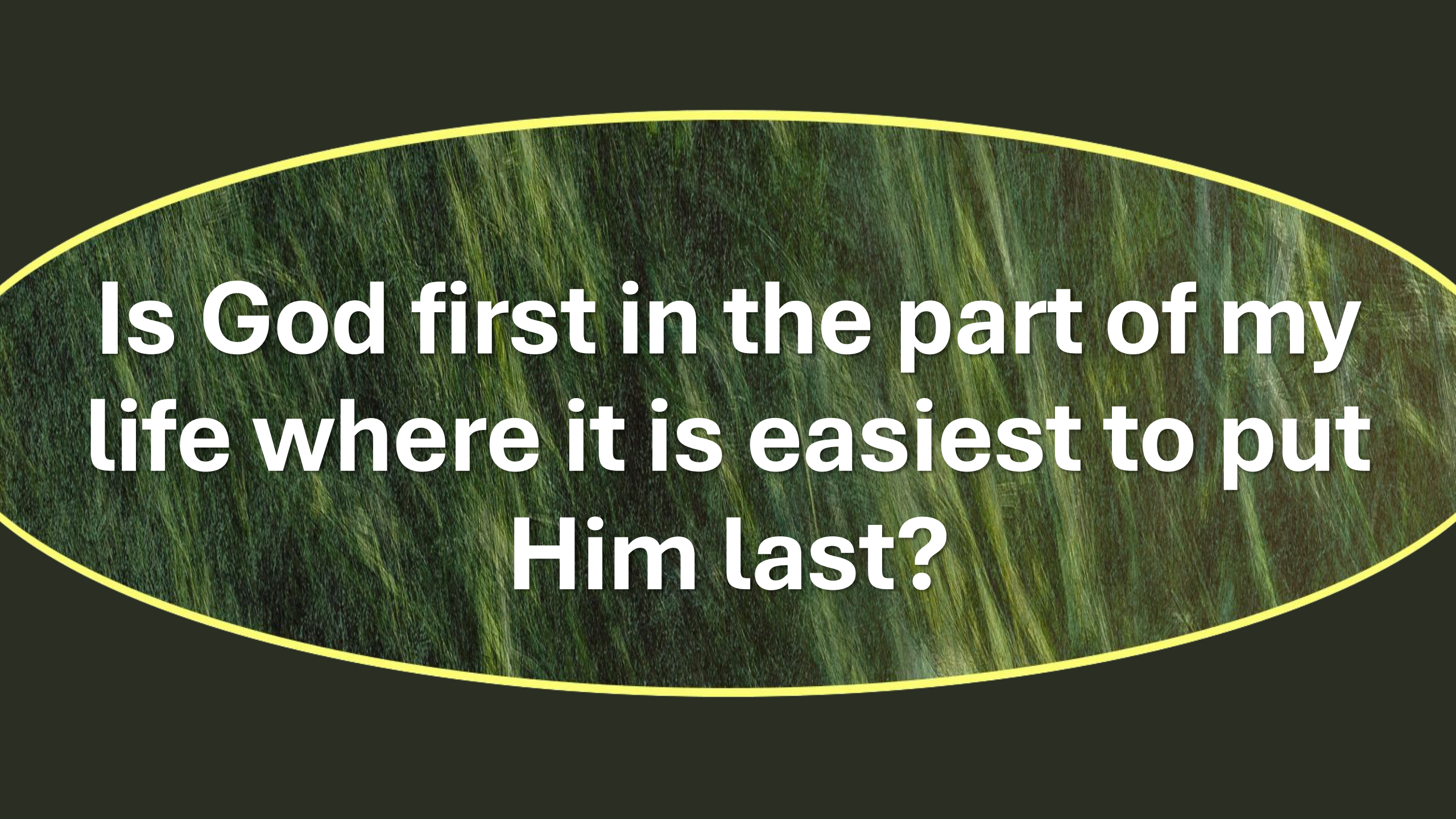
- Who should give?  
Give personally.

*“let every one of you”*

# Big Idea:

**Joyful generosity isn't random – it is built into your life.**

- 1. Give with purpose — *because real needs matter.***
- 2. Give consistently — *because generosity has to be built into your life.***
- 3. Give personally — *because every one of us has a part.***

The image features a blurred background of green grass, likely a field, with a bright yellow oval border. The text is centered within this oval.

**Is God first in the part of my  
life where it is easiest to put  
Him last?**

**Greed shrinks the soul. Fear locks the heart. Self-centered living makes your world smaller and smaller.**

**But generosity opens the heart. It lifts your eyes. It teaches you to trust. It lets you participate in what God is doing.**



**Big Idea:**

**Joyful generosity isn't random –  
it is built into your life.**

**You don't drift into it – you  
decide into it.**