

Ponderous Thoughts

An elderly church member at a former church gave me a Bible that belonged to his father. The father was a pastor and his Bible is filled with notes and comments throughout. And, along with the notes, I ran across a few clippings. One such clipping dates from 1906 and talks about giving. While I'm not sure I would use the same language or even agree with all its sentiments, I appreciate the fact that it invites us to take seriously how we express our faith through giving. [I would humbly take issue with "the Lazy Way," since such a way of giving involves many hours of work and sacrifice!] I have since found that this article was written by Arthur Pierson, a pastor in Brooklyn, NY. Anyway, here's the article. . . complete with original spelling. . .

Seven Ways of Giving.

We print below, from an exchange, seven ways of giving to the Lord of our substance. They will be useful in helping to decide whether our beneficence is really Christian and acceptable to the Lord.

- 1. The Careless Way. – To give something to every cause that is presented, without inquiring into its merits.*
- 2. The Impulsive Way. – To give from impulse, as much and as often as love and pity and sensibility prompt.*
- 3. The Lazy Way. – To make a special effort to earn money for benevolent objects by fairs, festivals, etc.*
- 4. The Self-Denying Way. – To save the cost of luxuries and apply them to purposes of religion and charity. This may lead to asceticism and self-complaisance.*
- 5. The Systematic Way. – To lay aside as an offering to God a definite portion of our gains – one tenth, one fifth, one third, one half. This is adapted to all, whetehre poor or rich, and gifts would be greatly increast if it were generally practist.*
- 6. – The Equal Way. – To give to God and the needy just as much as we spend on ourselves.*
- 7. – The Heroic Way. – To limit our expenditures to a certain sum, and give away all the rest of our income. This was John Wesley's way.*

So, what do you think about all this?

— Eric Lindblade