

## **Sanctifying Jehovah in Worship (6) Offertory**

A child has been sitting in the worship service for an hour now. The sermon of about 45 minutes long is coming to an end. And then, the minister of God announces that it is time for the giving of the offering. He begins by saying, "let us worship the Lord in the giving of our offering".

So, this tells him that it is time for him to give the offering. Now, a few questions come up in his little mind. Now, why is the church collecting? What is it for? How should I give it?

### **Why is the Church collecting an Offering?**

First of all, giving an offering is taught in the Bible. The apostle Paul taught the Corinthian Christians that when they came together to worship God on the Lord's day, they are to give an offering. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him..." (I Cor. 16:2). "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7).

### **What is the Offering for?**

Secondly, what is the offering for? Now, the sole purpose of the church is the preaching of the gospel. As such the offering is for the preaching and the spreading of the gospel. For example rents need to be paid for the worship hall, money is needed to run the various church ministries. The church needs money for the purchase of the bread and wine for the Lord's Supper, Public Address system so that we don't have to strain our ears unnecessarily to hear what our pastor is saying. Psalters, hymnals, bibles are needed. Money is needed to produce gospel tracts and church bulletins. We need to spend money when our pastor travels to Penang once a month and all kinds of money are needed for the maintenance of the gospel ministry. And not forgetting, we are praying earnestly that God will give unto us a permanent place of worship, so that we can stop renting and use the place as and when there is a need to. And we earnestly look forward to that day.

### **How should I give the Offering?**

Thirdly, I give as an act of worship. And this is the reason why the offertory is in the worship service. It is an important element of worship and so the giving is not done during the singing of a song but it is a separate and distinct part of worship.

I give privately my offerings because my offering is between God and me. This is what Jesus taught when he said that when we give, we should not let what our left hand know what our right hand gives. This is another way of saying that we give privately and not boast about how much we are giving.

But, if I am too young to earn any money, I need to depend on my parents to give me something. But, I look forward to the time, that I can give when I have enough money in my piggy bank.

I must remember that when I give, I give to the Lord and with a smile on my face! (II Cor. 9.7). And when I give in this way, the Lord will accept my offering, especially when I give from my heart.

May the Lord accept my offerings that I give unto Him.

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