

Wed

13. With so many appeals for meony, how can a widow of 78 know where ~~ka~~ best to give what little I have to give?

This is a very good question, and one which I have personally asked many times, for I too am beseiged with appeals from good Christian organizations for money. It's just not possible to give even to all the owrthy ones, and I've come to realize that I am not obligated to. Let me say to this dear widow that her example is a good one for all of us. Undoubtedly she does not have much to give, and yet from her question it is evident that she wants to give to the Lord's work. And that's a good example. We should all want to give as much as possible to God's work whether our incomes be small ~~of~~/ medium or large. But where should we give? To be sure there are many worthy Christian works to give to. But God does not hold me resonsible to give to all of them. SomeHe lays on my heart and some on others. So first of all, pray about the matter and ask the Lord to burden you for the particular ones He wants you to support. Second, examine the organization carefully. After all you are a steward of God's money-- it's not yours, so you are responsible to see that it is going to be used properly. How can you examine an organization? Well, be sure it is proclaiming the ~~Bikix~~ message of the Bible accurately. If it is not, then not only do you not need to support it, but you should not. If you do not know what they preach, ~~xxx~~ write and ask to see their doctrinal statement. If they do not have one, then be suspicious. Also, I think you should be assured that your money is going into the ministry ~~of that group~~ and not into a lot of overhead expenses and promotional efforts. Of course all organizatins have to have some overhead expenses, but they should~~not~~ be only a small proportion of the budget of the organization. Most of the money should go directly into the work of spreading the gospel. If you wish, it is perfectly in order to ask the organization for a financial statement, and you can easily tell from that ~~how much~~ of your money is being used. Give, yes, but give wisely, and God will bless you for being a careful steward.

Thurs

14. On the first day of creation God said Let there be light, and there was (Gen. 1:3). But the sun, moon, and stars weren't created until the fourth day (Gen. 1:14). What was this original light?

Since the Bible says that God created some kind of light source on the first day, He obviously did. It might have been some localized light in heaven and in reference to that light the earth as it rotated passed through the day-night cycle. On the 4th day He created the sun, moon and stars which replaced the light source created on the first day and which also served as a calendar, dividing seasons, days and years. Furthermore, the sun, moon and stars are in the sky in order that men might know that there had to be a creator whoc made them. The heavens declare the glory of God (Ps 19:1. The heat of the sun, the same psalm says, reminds men that a creator exists. Paul also said that what man can see in the heavens should tell him that there is a God wh~~o~~ is living and powerful. Roml 1:18 ff. And, he says, if man rejects that revelation, he is justly condemned. So the next time you see the moon or the stars or feel the heat of the sun, remember how great God is who created these, and thank Him that He lives and offers eternal life to all who believe in His son.