

## **Thoughts on the act of giving during the worship service**

By Bob Baldwin

Christianity is a physical religion. It is physical because of the incarnation – God came as blood and bone. He came as a baby and grew through all human stages until he was murdered. And He came again physically. “Put your finger here, Thomas.”

And we respond to this reality by a physical worship. We don't limit our worship to our mind but use our whole body. We sit, we stand, some kneel, we sing, we pray, we walk forward to eat and drink of the Body of Christ. Worship is full of movement. It is important. It reminds us that the body is so important to God that it will be resurrected throughout eternity.

Our worship through our gifts is necessarily a movement, too. Just as in the rest of the service, the physical movement, the physicality of bringing and putting our tithes and offerings in the offering plate is a reminder that we have been “reconciled through Christ's physical body”. To spiritualize our giving by removing our physical act is to minimize the importance of Jesus' physical act.

Our movement, our giving is an act of the will exercised corporately. Another point of connection with the rest of the Body of Christ. We move in unison, in agreement, to honor and praise our God. Just as our voices are raised together, as our prayers are offered together, as our confession is prayed together, so our gifts are given together.

Offering our gifts over the internet is neither a physical act of worship nor a corporate act of worship. It suffers because it is done electronically and individually. Rather, bring your tithes and offerings into the house of the Lord. And we will worship Him together.