THE QUESTION

Did the early church teach that giving alms covers sins?

Asked by a THF member on October 8, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 8 numbered quotations · the 29 early Christian passages and 182 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/did-the-early-church-teach-that-giving-alms-covers-sins

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Yes. Early writers, drawing on Tobit, Sirach, Proverbs and Daniel, taught that mercy to the poor cleanses sins and delivers from death. They tied this to repentance and to God's mercy in Christ, and they warned that giving is never a license to keep sinning on purpose.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

IN THIS STUDY

1	Scripture links mercy with cleansing from sin	2	6	The forgiven keep giving out of virtue	4
2	Tobit says alms deliver from death	2	7	Christ's blood is where forgiveness begins	5
3	A church order says giving redeems sins	3		What these passages don't tell us	5
4	Almsgiving belongs with repentance and love	3		The Sources: 29 early Christian passages and 182 Bible verses, with links	5
5	Giving is not permission to keep sinning	4			

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

POINT 1 OF 7

Scripture links mercy with cleansing from sin

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian gathers what he calls God's own remedies for sinners. He quotes Solomon on storing alms in the heart of the poor, and Daniel's counsel to a king to redeem his sins by showing mercy to the poor. For Cyprian, works of mercy are part of how a sinner makes peace with God.

1 “The divine instructions have taught what sinners ought to do: by works of righteousness God is satisfied, and by deeds of mercy sins are cleansed.”

later in the same passage

“Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you; and redeem your sins by almsgiving, and your unrighteousness by mercies to the poor, and God will be patient with your sins.”"

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 19, page 7 Read it in the library ›

POINT 2 OF 7

Tobit says alms deliver from death

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian urges Christian parents to teach their children as Tobit taught his son. Tobit tells him to give as he is able and not to fear giving, because alms store up a reward and deliver from death. Cyprian passes this on as sound counsel for believers.

2 “And do not be afraid when you give alms, for you are storing up a good reward for yourself against the day of necessity, because alms deliver from death, and do not allow one to come into Gehenna.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 20, page 7 Read it in the library ›

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

POINT 3 OF 7

A church order says giving redeems sins

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions tell believers to give from the work of their hands for the redemption of their sins. They cite Proverbs and Daniel, and add that whoever shows mercy to the poor lends to the Lord, who will repay. Giving is pictured as a loan to God, not a loss.

3 “If you have something from the work of your hands, give, so that you may labor for the redemption of your sins. For by alms and acts of faith, sins are purged away.”

later in the same passage

“He that has mercy on the poor man lends to the Lord; according to his gift, so shall it be repaid him again.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** **Source 27, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Almsgiving belongs with repentance and love

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Second Clement places almsgiving inside a call to repent while there is still time before judgment. It ranks almsgiving above fasting and prayer and says love covers many sins. Giving here is a sign of a turned heart, not a payment made apart from repentance.

4 “Almsgiving, then, is good as repentance from sin. Fasting is better than prayer, and almsgiving than both.”

later in the same passage

“Blessed is everyone who is found complete in these, for almsgiving lightens the burden of sin.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** ***Second Epistle*** 16 (c. 88–99 AD) **Source 1, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

POINT 5 OF 7

Giving is not permission to keep sinning

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Lactantius warns against a wrong use of this teaching. Sins are taken away when a person gives because he has sinned and is sorry. But someone who sins on purpose, counting on his gifts to cover it, is not forgiven. He says true repentance means resolving to sin no more.

5

> “But do not think that, because offenses are removed by generosity, you are given permission to sin.”
>
> *later in the same passage*
>
> “For sins are taken away if you are generous toward God because you have sinned. But if you sin because you are relying on your generosity, they are not taken away.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 13 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 28, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

The forgiven keep giving out of virtue

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Lactantius adds that someone cleansed from sin should not stop giving. What was first done to heal wounds is then done for the glory of virtue. He also notes that no one in the body is free of fault, so mercy stays part of a believer's whole life.

6

> “No, truly, he is then even more bound to practice justice when he has become just, so that what he had previously done for the healing of his wounds, he may afterward do for the praise and glory of virtue.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 13 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 28, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

POINT 7 OF 7

Christ's blood is where forgiveness begins

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

These teachings sit beside the gospel, not in place of it. Clement of Rome praises the love that covers sins and points to Christ, who gave His blood for us. Hippolytus says those who believe in Christ as able to forgive have their sins wiped away. Mercy to the poor flows from that grace.

7 “Out of the Love He bore us, Jesus Christ our Lord gave His blood for us by the will of God; His flesh for our flesh, and His soul for our souls.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 29, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

8 “But as many as will believe in Him as One able to forgive sins, have their sins wiped away.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 18, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not explain exactly how mercy to the poor and Christ's sacrifice work together in forgiveness.
- They say nothing special about rich givers; the same teaching is given to everyone who can give.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 29 early Christian passages and 182 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–29, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 30–116, in Bible order), then 95 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**,

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *29 passages from 14 writers*

Clement of Rome, *c. 88–99 AD · sources 1–2*

1 *Second Epistle* 16 **Quote 4, page 3** "covers a multitude of sins, 1 Peter 4… [continues online] **read ›**

2 *Second Epistle* 6 (on point 5) and incorruptible. For if we do the will of Christ, we will find rest. Otherwise, nothing will deliver us from eternal punishment if we disobey His commandments. For Scripture also… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 3–5*

3 *Shepherd* (on point 7) except the one that happens when we go down into the water and receive forgiveness of our former sins." He said to me, "What you heard was sound teaching, for… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Shepherd* "But listen," he says, "to the things about which you are not to practice self-restraint, but which you ought to do. Do not restrain yourself from what is good, but… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Shepherd* "and rotten. Therefore, this illustration is for the servants of God, for the poor man and for the rich." I said, "How so, sir? Explain it to me." He said… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · source 6*

6 *Epistles of Ignatius* (on point 3) "by alms and fidelity sins are purged away… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 7*

7 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 7) "works deliverance from death to those who repent of their wickedness and believe upon Him… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 8*

8 *Diatessaron* 9 6:1 Consider your alms. Do not do them before people so they may see you. If you do, you have no reward from your Father who is in heaven… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 9*

9 *To Autolycus* 14 (1885 English) those that do good it teaches not to boast, lest they become men-pleasers. For it says: Let not your left hand know… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 10–11*

10 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 1) to God always." Around the ninth hour of the day, he saw an angel of God, who told him, "Your alms have come up as a memorial before God. Therefore… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 7) the regions below the earth, preaching His arrival there too, and announcing the forgiveness of sins received by those who believe in Him. All who hoped in Him believed in… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 12–16*

12 *Stromata* 3 Savior said nothing about the begetting of children. Rather, He urges those who wanted only to be rich in possessions, but refused to help the needy, to give and share… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Stromata* 2.15 (on point 3) "alms, then, and acts of faith, sins are purged… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 38 (1885 English; on point 4) "covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8 Perfect love casts out fear… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 31 (1885 English) "Corinthians 9:7 who delights in giving, and spares not, sowing so that he may also thus reap, without murmuring, and disputing, and regret, and communicating, which is pure beneficence… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

16 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 4 (1885 English) “indeed grants to those who beg, and teaches those who ask, and dissipates ignorance and dispels despair, by introducing again the same words about the rich, which become their own… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · source 17*

17 *Against Marcion* 37 (1885 English) “you see the naked cover him. This he promised to do, in an equally satisfactory way, when he offered the half of his goods for all works of mercy… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 18*

18 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 **Quote 8, page 5** Therefore, whoever believed in the heavenly Priest was cleansed by that same Priest, and their sins were wiped away. And whoever did not believe in Him, and despised Him as… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 19–22*

19 *Treatises* **Quote 1, page 2** “alms does deliver from death, and it purges away sins… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Treatises* **Quote 2, page 2** “in truth, and do before Him what pleases Him. And command your sons to practice righteousness and almsgiving, and to be mindful of God, and always bless His name.” Tobit… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Treatises* (on point 2) “that souls are delivered by almsgiving not only from the… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Treatises* (on point 5) In the same way, the Apostle Paul was urging the value of peace and love. He strongly declared and taught that neither faith nor alms, nor even the suffering itself… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 23–27*

23 *Apostolic Constitutions* a state of continence and piety. Let us pray for those who bear fruit in the holy Church and give alms to the needy. And let us pray for those… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 1) “then by Daniel He says to the potentate: Wherefore, O king, let my counsel please you, and purge your sins by acts of mercy, and your iniquities by bowels of… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Apostolic Constitutions* will not live according to God's command are anxious and curious about which deaconess gives the charity, and which widows receive it. And when such a widow has learned… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) “the Scripture says: Deliver those that are led to death, and redeem those that are ready to be slain, do not spare… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 3, page 3** “by alms and acts of faith, sins are purged away… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · source 28*

28 *Divine Institutes* 13 (1885 English) **Quotes 5, 6, page 4** “they are done away with, if you are bountiful to God because you have sinned… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 29*

29 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 7, page 5** “unites us to God. Love covers a multitude of sins… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *87 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

30 **Exodus 10:17** Now therefore forgive my sin this once more, and pray to the Lord your God, and let him take this death away from me.” **read ›**

31 **Exodus 30:15** The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half didrachm when they give the contribution to the Lord, to make atonement for your souls. **read ›**

32 **Joshua 2:13** and keep alive my father’s house—my mother, my brothers, all my household, and all that they have—and you shall rescue my life from death.” **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

33 **1 Kings 8:50** and be gracious to their unrighteousness in which they sinned against you, and with regard to all their transgressions by which they transgressed against you; and you shall give them compassion before those who carry them captive, and they shall have compassion on them; **read ›**

34 **Job 5:20** In famine he will rescue you from death, and in war he will free you from the hand of iron. **read ›**

35 **Psalms 4:7** You have put gladness into my heart; from the fruit of their grain and wine and oil they have been multiplied. (Septuagint Psalm 4:8 (Psalm 4:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

36 **Psalms 12:8** The ungodly walk all around; according to your loftiness you have greatly cared for the sons of men. (Septuagint Psalm 11:9 (Psalm 12:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

37 **Psalms 33:19** to deliver their souls from death, and to keep them alive in famine. (Septuagint Psalm 32:19 (Psalm 33:19 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

38 **Psalms 56:13** For you have delivered my soul from death, and my feet from slipping, that I may be well-pleasing before God in the light of the living. (Septuagint Psalm 55:14 (Psalm 56:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

39 **Psalms 68:20** Our God is the God who saves, and to the Lord belong the ways out from death. (Septuagint Psalm 67:21 (Psalm 68:20 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

40 **Psalms 116:8** For he has rescued my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from slipping. (Septuagint Psalm 114:8 (Psalm 116:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

41 **Proverbs 10:12** Hatred stirs up quarrels, but friendship covers all who do not love quarreling. **read ›**

42 **Proverbs 11:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

43 **Proverbs 13:8** A man’s own wealth is the ransom of his soul, but the poor man does not stand up under threats. **read ›**

44 **Proverbs 14:21** He who dishonors the needy sins, but he who has mercy on the poor is to be counted blessed. **read ›**

45 **Proverbs 17:9** He who hides wrongs seeks friendship, but he who hates to hide them separates friends and relatives. **read ›**

46 **Proverbs 19:17** He who has mercy on the poor lends to God, and he will repay him according to his gift. **read ›**

47 **Proverbs 21:26** The ungodly man desires evil desires all the day, but the righteous man has mercy and compassion without sparing. **read ›**

48 **Proverbs 24:11** Deliver those being led away to death, and ransom those being killed; do not hold back. **read ›**

49 **Proverbs 28:13** He who covers his own ungodliness will not prosper, but he who sets forth rebukes will be loved. **read ›**

50 **Proverbs 28:27** He who gives to the poor will not be in want, but he who turns away his eye will be in great distress. **read ›**

51 **Song of Solomon 5:8** I have charged you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the powers and by the strengths of the field: if you find my kinsman, what will you tell him? That I am wounded with love. **read ›**

52 **Song of Solomon 6:10** Who is this who looks out like the dawn, beautiful as the moon, choice as the sun, awe-inspiring as troops in ranks? **read ›**

53 **Jeremiah 31:1** At that time, said the Lord, I will be God to the family of Israel, and they shall be my people. (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:1 (Jeremiah 31:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

54 **Jeremiah 31:10** Hear the words of the Lord, O nations, and declare them to the islands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will also gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd feeds his flock.” (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:10 (Jeremiah 31:10 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

55 **Jeremiah 32:19** the Lord of great counsel and mighty in works, the great God, the Almighty, the Lord of great name—your eyes are on the ways of the sons of men, to give to each according to his way; (Septuagint Jeremiah 39:19 (Jeremiah 32:19 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

56 **Jeremiah 36:16** When they had heard all the words, they took counsel each with his neighbor and said, “Let us surely tell the king all these words.” (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:16 (Jeremiah 36:16 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

57 **Jeremiah 36:21** The king sent Jehudi to take the scroll; and he took it from the house of Elishama, and Jehudi read it in the ears of the king and in the ears of all the rulers who stood around the king. (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:21 (Jeremiah 36:21 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

58 **Jeremiah 40:2** The chief cook took him and said to him, “The Lord your God has spoken these evils against this place; (Septuagint Jeremiah 47:2 (Jeremiah 40:2 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

59 **Ezekiel 33:30** And you, Son of man: the children of your people are speaking about you by the walls and in the doorways of the houses, and they speak each one to his brother, saying, “Let us come together and hear what goes out from the Lord.” **read ›**

60 **Daniel 11:17** And he shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall make all things straight with him; and he shall give him a daughter of women to ruin her; but she shall by no means remain, and she shall not be his. **read ›**

61 **Daniel 11:28** And he shall return to his land with many possessions, and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall act, and return to his own land. **read ›**

62 **Hosea 13:14** I will deliver them from the hand of Hades, and I will redeem them from death. Where is your penalty, O death? Where is your sting, O Hades? Comfort is hidden from my eyes. **read ›**

63 **1 Esdras 5:45** and to give to the holy treasury of the works a thousand minas of gold and five thousand minas of silver, and a hundred priestly robes. **read ›**

64 **Tobit 4:7** Give alms from your possessions, and do not let your eye be envious when you give alms. Do not turn your face away from any poor man, and the face of God will certainly not be turned away from you. **read ›**

65 **Tobit 12:8** Prayer is good with fasting and alms and righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than much with unrighteousness. It is better to give alms than to lay up gold. **read ›**

66 **Tobit 12:9** For alms delivers from death, and it will purge away every sin. Those who do acts of alms and righteous deeds will be filled with life; **read ›**

67 **Tobit 14:11** And now, children, see what alms does, and how righteousness delivers.” And as he was saying these things, his soul left him on the bed; and he was a hundred and fifty-eight years old. And they buried him gloriously. **read ›**

68 **Wisdom of Solomon 11:23** But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things, and you overlook the sins of men, for the sake of repentance. **read ›**

69 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:11** For the Lord is compassionate and merciful; he forgives sins and saves in the time of trouble. **read ›**

70 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:30** Water will quench a blazing fire, and an act of mercy will make atonement for sins. **read ›**

71 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:21** Do not marvel at the works of a sinner; trust in the Lord and keep to your labor; for it is easy in the eyes of the Lord to make a needy man rich quickly, in an instant. **read ›**

72 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:3** There are no good things for one who persists in evil, nor for one who does not give acts of mercy. **read ›**

73 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:7** Give to the good man, and do not help the sinner. **read ›**

74 **Wisdom of Sirach 13:3** A rich man does wrong, and he even adds threats; a poor man is wronged, and he must even plead. **read ›**

75 **Wisdom of Sirach 13:22** When a rich man slips, his helpers are many; he speaks things not to be spoken, and they justify him; a lowly man slips, and they rebuke him besides; he speaks with understanding, and no place is given him. **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Sirach 13:24** Wealth is good to one who has no sin, and poverty is evil in the mouth of the ungodly. **read ›**

77 **Wisdom of Sirach 14:16** Give and take, and indulge your soul, for in Hades there is no seeking of luxury. **read ›**

78 **Wisdom of Sirach 20:3** and he who confesses will be kept from loss. **read ›**

79 **Wisdom of Sirach 20:12** There is one who buys much for a little, and repays it sevenfold. **read ›**

80 **Wisdom of Sirach 20:28** He who works the land will raise his heap of grain high, and he who pleases nobles will make atonement for unrighteousness. **read ›**

81 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:1** Many have sinned for the sake of a trifle, and he who seeks to grow rich will turn his eye away. **read ›**

82 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:2** Forgive your neighbor the wrong he has done, and then, when you pray, your sins will be released. **read ›**

83 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:1** He who shows mercy will lend to his neighbor, and he who gives strength with his hand keeps the commandments. **read ›**

84 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:8** Yet be patient with a man in humble circumstances, and do not keep him waiting for an act of mercy. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

85 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:9** For the commandment's sake help the poor man, and in his need do not send him away empty. **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:12** Store up an act of mercy in your storerooms, and it will rescue you from all misery. **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 34:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Sirach 38:14** For they too will plead with the Lord that he may make relief and healing prosper for them, for the preserving of life. **read ›**

91 **Wisdom of Sirach 40:17** Grace is like a garden in blessings, and an act of mercy endures forever. **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Sirach 40:24** Brothers and help are for a time of trouble, but above both an act of mercy will deliver. **read ›**

93 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:2** O death, your judgment is good for a man who is in need and failing in strength, in extreme old age and troubled about everything, who is disobedient and has lost endurance. **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Sirach 51:9** And I lifted up my plea on the earth, and prayed for deliverance from death. **read ›**

95 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:36** They will not rescue a man from death, nor deliver the weaker from the strong. **read ›**

96 **2 Maccabees 6:22** so that by doing this he might be released from death and, because of his old friendship with them, receive kind treatment. **read ›**

97 **3 Maccabees 5:8** that he would overturn the unholy plan against them and rescue them with a magnificent manifestation from the doom that lay ready at their feet. **read ›**

98 **3 Maccabees 6:10** And if our life has been entangled in ungodliness during our exile, rescue us from the hand of the enemy, and destroy us, O Master, by whatever death you choose. **read ›**

99 **1 Enoch 69:7** And from his hand they have proceeded against those who dwell on the earth from that day and forevermore. **read ›**

100 **1 Enoch 94:8** Woe to you, you rich, for you have trusted in your riches, and from your riches you shall depart, because you have not remembered the Most High in the days of your riches. **read ›**

101 **1 Enoch 96:4** Woe to you, you sinners, for your riches make you appear like the righteous, but your hearts convict you of being sinners, and this shall be a testimony against you, for a memorial of your evil deeds. **read ›**

102 **Matthew 6:2** Therefore, when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before yourself, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may get glory from men. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. **read ›**

103 **Matthew 6:3** But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand does, **read ›**

104 **Mark 12:41** Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and saw how the multitude cast money into the treasury. Many who were rich cast in much. **read ›**

105 **Luke 11:41** But give what is within as alms, and behold, all things are clean to you. **read ›**

106 **Luke 12:33** Sell what you have and give alms. Make for yourselves money bags that do not grow old, an unfailing treasure in the heavens, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. **read ›**

107 **Luke 21:1** He looked up and saw the rich people who were putting their gifts into the treasury. **read ›**

108 **Romans 4:7** "Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. **read ›**

109 **1 Corinthians 16:14** Let all that you do be done in love. **read ›**

110 **2 Corinthians 1:10** who delivered us out of so great a death, and does deliver, on whom we have set our hope that he will also still deliver us, **read ›**

111 **2 Corinthians 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich. **read ›**

112 **2 Corinthians 9:9** As it is written, He has scattered widely, he has given to the needy; his righteousness endures forever. **read ›**

113 **Colossians 3:14** Above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. **read ›**

114 **1 Timothy 6:18** that they do good, that they be rich in good works, that they be ready to distribute, willing to share; **read ›**

115 **James 5:20** let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

116 **1 Peter 4:8** And above all things be earnest in your love among yourselves, for love will cover a multitude of sins. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *95 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 4:25

Leviticus 15:18

Deuteronomy 8:18 · 20:5 · 20:19

Proverbs 9:17 · 31:8

Isaiah 50:9

Jeremiah 23:24

Matthew 5:44 · 6:19 · 6:24 · 7:21 · 10:12 · 10:42 · 11:27 · 12:38 · 16:21 · 18:20 · 18:23 · 19:6 · 19:29 · 23:9 · 25:35

Mark 10:17 · 12:33

Luke 1:35 · 1:38 · 4:18 · 6:30 · 6:46 · 8:18 · 10:5 · 10:27 · 10:30 · 12:42 · 15:7 · 19:1 · 19:8 · 19:9 · 19:10 · 19:22 · 20:25 · 20:27 · 20:34

John 3:6 · 3:9 · 4:18 · 6:27 · 15:5 · 15:11

Acts 2:38 · 9:40

Romans 3:3 · 7:4 · 7:12 · 12:10 · 12:13 · 13:7 · 14:19 · 14:21

1 Corinthians 6:12 · 6:18 · 7:5 · 7:8 · 7:9 · 7:14 · 7:32 · 7:39 · 10:31 · 13:4 · 13:5

2 Corinthians 9:7 · 11:3

Galatians 1:19 · 5:13 · 5:17

Ephesians 5:25

Philippians 4:3

Colossians 2:20

1 Timothy 2:2 · 3:2 · 4:1 · 4:3 · 5:10 · 5:14

Hebrews 6:4 · 10:26 · 12:16 · 13:2 · 13:5

James 1:27 · 5:19

1 John 3:9 · 4:18

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Did the early church teach that giving alms covers sins?” on October 8, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

How to cite this study. The Historic Faith, “Did the early church teach that giving alms covers sins?” Early Church Questions, published November 9, 2026, https://thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/did-the-early-church-teach-that-giving-alms-covers-sins. To cite one quotation, add its number and source, for example “quote 1, source 19.”

© 2026 The Historic Faith. Selection, arrangement and editing by THF; machine-compiled text and public-domain quotations are not claimed. For personal study; please don’t republish.

THEHISTORICFAITH.COM

THE END OF THIS STUDY