Remember the Poor

Galatians 2:10 (Acts 15)

Introduction:

1. "Remember the poor" -- Gal. 2:7-10 (Background -- Acts 15)
   . The apostles were concerned about the poor -- Gal. 2:10a.
   . But Paul was too - Gal. 2:10b.; Acts 24:17

2. Evidence of the early church's concern for poor, the famines, the hardships.
     . Josephus mentions this same famine in his history.
   . A later famine -- churches in Galatia, Macedonia, and Achaia sent relief.
     . 1 Cor. 16:1-2
     . Rom. 15:25-27
     . 2 Cor. 8, 9; 9:1-3
     . Acts 24:17

3. Evidence the apostles and early church were benevolent. Why? How did they come by this attitude?
   . From Jesus and the Judeao ethic (the Christian-Judeao ethic)
     . Our government today is based on this ethic. This is why there has been this kind of concern.
   . This is why we have many welfare programs -- both federal and state and local.
   . The churches today are not basically the "benevolent" organization like it was in the early centuries.

4. Even today we generally classify the work of the Church into three categories--
   . Evangelism
   . Edification
   . Benevolence

5. It is very evident that the apostles remembered Jesus was concerned about the poor and unfortunate.
   . On the night of his betrayal.
   . Judas kept the purse for the group. -- John 12:3-8; 13:28-29
   . Some apostles thought Judas' departure was to give out alms to the poor.

6. Peter and John -- went into the temple -- Acts 3
   . Lame man asking for alms
     . Had no silver or gold-- but gave what they could.
       i. Indication is if they had had it would have been ready to share it.
7. Old Testament Insights

. The law laid down certain provisions for the poor -- Exodus 22:25-27

. xxx How to provide for the poor, the widows & orphans-- Deut. 24:19-21 xxx NIV

. Good men like Boaz, in Ruth 2 gave this kind of treatment to the poor

. xxx Job 31:16-17, v, 19
   i. IF ... v.28 that would be iniquity!

8. The Canaanites --were NOT concerned about the poor.

. xxx What contributed to the fall of the Canaanites -- and why Judah would fall into the Babylonian Captivity -- Ezek. 16:46-50 (xxx v.49)
   i. Ezekiel 18:7, 9.


. Matt. 5:43-48

. Matt. 11:5 (Luke 4:18) the gospel was preached to the poor

. Even in his death-- Jesus resulted in a blessing for the poor --
   . With the "blood money" Potters' field was purchased -- Matt. 27:7, 10
   . The poor now had a burial place.

THE POINT:

. Let us "remember the poor" also. Those suffering:
   i. floods, earthquakes, burn-outs, and other disasters.

. Remember the three-fold work of the church:
   i. Evangelism
   ii. Edification
   iii. Benevolence

. While we have a benevolence program in our budget-- it is not much.
   . We realize not the desperate situation in our day and in our country.
   . We always have the poor with us -- (John 12)

      (1) But many fall into the category described in 2 Thess. 3:10--
      (2) Others have families that should provide -- 1 Tim. 5:8; 5:4

   Illustration: I remember that a cotton farmer let the boys in a large poor family that lived near-by pick the "second picking" to buy themselves shoes and overalls for school.