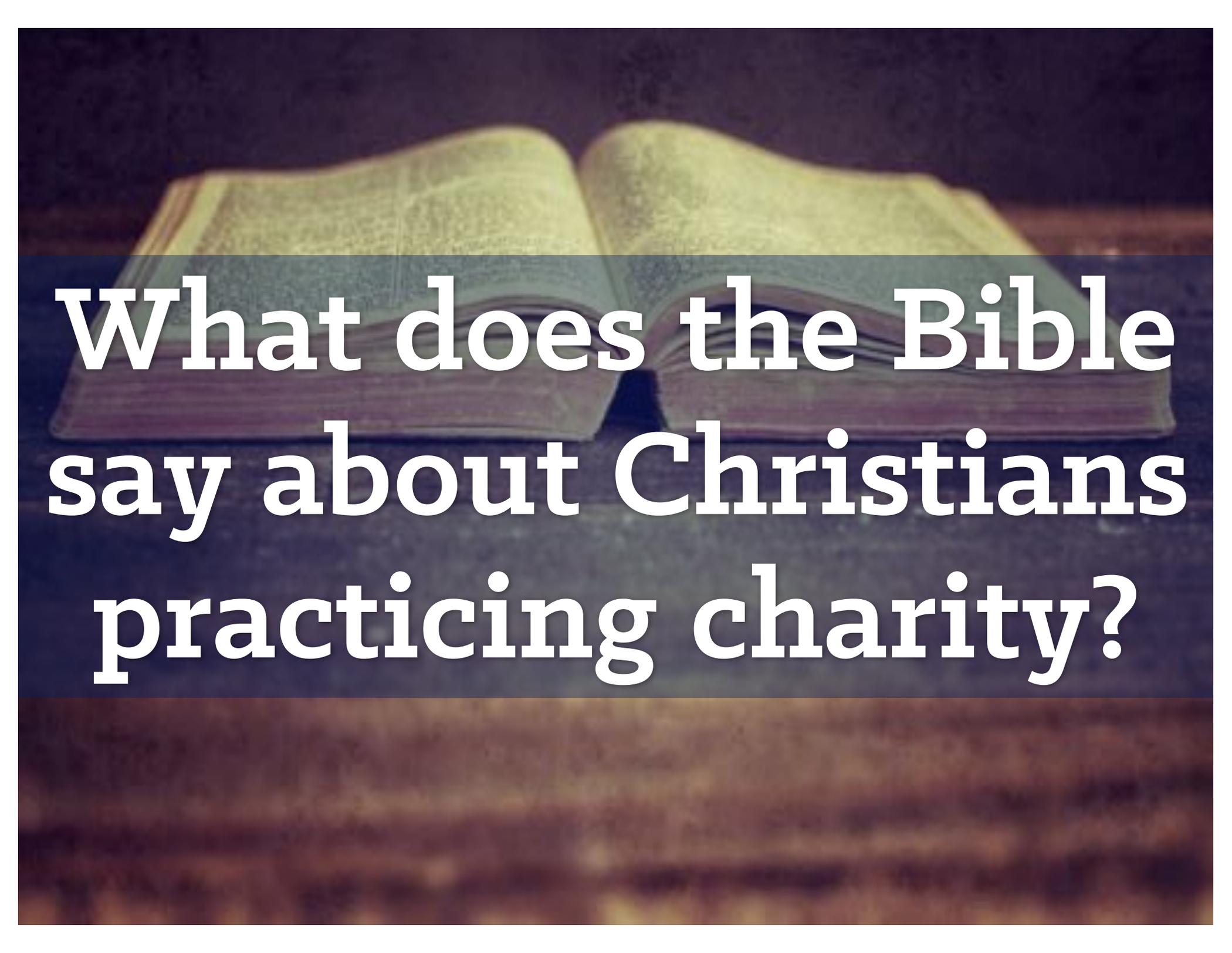


ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

Answering your questions about
life, the Bible, and God

An open Bible with yellowed pages is shown against a dark, textured background. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark blue band across the center of the image.

**What does the Bible
say about Christians
practicing charity?**

FIRST, SOME BIBLE PRECEDENTS

- “So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10);
- “They only asked us to remember the poor – the very thing I also was eager to do” (Galatians 2:10);
- “For the poor you shall always have with you...” (Matthew 26:10-11) – Not an indictment of the impoverished, but an affirmation that we will always need to help them;
- “For the poor will never cease to be in your land; therefore I command you, saying, ‘You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land’” (Deuteronomy 15:9-11).



CONGREGATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

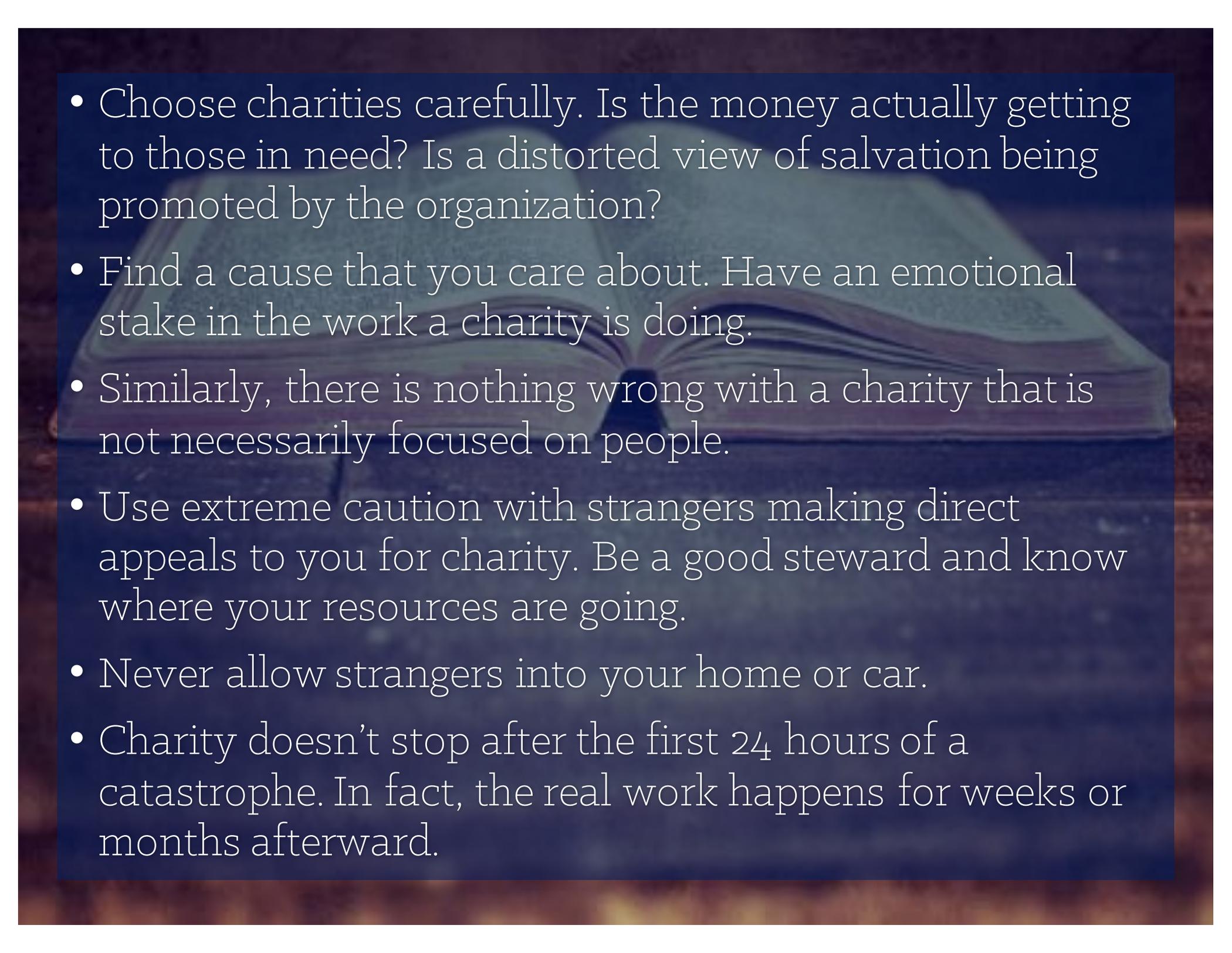
There is no biblical precedent for *corporate* benevolence on behalf of unbelievers, but there is abundant scriptural evidence that the church should take care of other Christians (Acts 4:32-35, 11:29, 2:44-45, 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2 Corinthians 8:4, 9:1, Romans 15:25-26, 1 Timothy 5:3-10). From widows, to the poor, to those affected by natural calamity, the church has many opportunities to help its own.

WHAT ABOUT INDIVIDUAL CHARITY?

- “This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world” (James 1:27);
- “So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).
- Jesus regularly encouraged his followers (and those He asked to follow Him) to share their wealth. This is part of laying up treasures in heaven! In addition, our charity leaves an impression on people we are trying to reach with the gospel (1 Pet. 2:15-17).



**Some
Considerations**

- 
- Choose charities carefully. Is the money actually getting to those in need? Is a distorted view of salvation being promoted by the organization?
 - Find a cause that you care about. Have an emotional stake in the work a charity is doing.
 - Similarly, there is nothing wrong with a charity that is not necessarily focused on people.
 - Use extreme caution with strangers making direct appeals to you for charity. Be a good steward and know where your resources are going.
 - Never allow strangers into your home or car.
 - Charity doesn't stop after the first 24 hours of a catastrophe. In fact, the real work happens for weeks or months afterward.



**Don't forget about the
most important
treasure you can share
(Acts 3:1-10).**