

**Being the Church  
Giving Together**  
2 Corinthians 8-9  
Sunday, June 4, 2017

### Introduction

As we have gone through our series on being the church we have been reminded that as God's people and as His Church God desires every part of our lives. If we live the Christian life the way God intends, and if we hope to be the Church that God has called us to be, we must be willing to give Him all. God wants every part of us and that includes our finances.

We can't cover everything the Bible says about money in one message, but the goal for this message is to consider what God expects of us in the area of giving. What should motivate our giving? How much should we give? What can we expect the results of our giving to be?

### Context

As Paul is writing this letter he is in the process of traveling and visiting different churches that he has relationships with. As he travels he is collecting an offering from these churches that is going to be taken back to the church in Jerusalem. As He writes to the Corinthians he encourages them to participate fully in giving to the work of God (1 Cor. 16:1-3).

### The Motivation of our Giving

As Paul writes to the Corinthians about giving one thing that becomes clear is that giving is primarily a matter of the heart.

- **Our giving should be motivated by hearts that are empowered by the grace of God** (8:1,5) (Ephesians 2:8-10).
- **Our giving should be motivated by hearts that are filled with joy in God** (8:2)

The Macedonians were a persecuted and impoverished people, but they were also a people who had a deep joy that was rooted in their relationship with God.

### Application:

- Our ability to give is not ultimately based on our outward situation. Our ability to give is based on our recognition of the grace of God and His ability to work through us. If you struggle to be generous with what God has given you, your first prayer should not be for more money, but for more grace. Ask God, through His grace to give you a heart of generosity.

- Where do you find your joy? If your joy is based on the things that you have you probably struggle to be generous towards others. If your joy is in your possessions it will be difficult to be generous. But as we learn to find our joy in God, we will be freed see the things we have as opportunities to honor God and bless others.

### The Measure of our Giving

- **We should give Generously (Open-Handedly)** (8:2-3)

The fact that the Macedonians were generous doesn't necessarily speak to volume they gave but to the heart attitude behind their giving. Their giving wasn't coerced and it wasn't veiled with any self-interest. It was open-handed.

- **We should give Sacrificially** (8:3-4) (Mark 12:41-44; Luke 12:32-34)
- **We should give Joyfully (Cheerfully)** (9:6-7)

### Application:

- Is my giving open-handed? Am I eager to open my hands to give or am I hesitant? Do I have a greater desire to serve Christ and others or do I tend to think about my own desires first?
- Is my giving sacrificial? Is what I give representative of a heart that wants to do all it can, or is my giving simply what I can easily afford?
- Is my giving with joy? When I give, do I give based on guilt or compulsion or am I eager to give because of my desire to honor God and bless His Church?

### The Results of our Giving

- Our giving leads to an increased testimony of our genuine love for Christ and others (8:7-8)
- Our giving leads to increased grace for greater giving (9:6-10) (Phil. 4:19)
- Our giving leads to increased grace for greater godliness (9:6-10)
- Our giving leads to increased thanksgiving and glory to God (9:11-15)