

ABOVE & BEYOND

LARRY CHAPPELL | FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-11, 9:6-8

very
poor
city

"Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. 3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; 4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. 6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. 7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. 8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. 9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. 10 And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago. 11 Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have." (2 Corinthians 8:1-11)

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:" (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

INTRODUCTION

- grace giving is a thanksgiving gift returned back to God
- * offering to God
- * used to minister to Christians in need
 - * church staff salaries
 - * for Christians in need & missionaries
 - * can be used for poor in community

1. TAKE Note : RECOGNIZE SPIRIT-LED GENEROSITY (v. 1)

- A. Remarkable generosity isn't hindered by hardship (v. 2)
- B. God's grace enables generosity beyond expectations (v. 3) - willing hearts
THEIR OFFERING WAS WILLING - first gave themselves to God
THEIR OFFERING WAS SACRIFICIAL - out of deep poverty
THEIR OFFERING WAS TO THE LORD
- C. Jesus is the ultimate example of generosity (v. 9) - Jesus became poor as human born on earth

2. TAKE Part : MOVE FROM INTENTION TO ACTION (v. 6, 10, 11) - action, do, perform

Quote: "The tragedy of life so often is, not that we have no high impulses, but that we fail to turn them into actions."—William Barclay

- A. Generosity is a grace action we are called to grow in (v. 7)

NEW TESTAMENT GIVING SHOULD BE:

REGULAR - on Sunday, 1st day of the week
PROPORTIONAL - % of your earnings (money)
PRIVATE - in own inner person (heart)
CHEERFUL - God loves a cheerful giver

"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. 3 And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem." (1 Corinthians 16:1-3)

- B. Jesus is after your heart — we effortlessly give to what we love

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (1 Timothy 6:10)

Quote: "There is no way to grow to spiritual maturity without committing your finances to the Lord. Jesus can have our money and not have our hearts, but He cannot have our hearts without our money."
—Kent Hughes

- What do you love most?

- C. Generous intentions alone do not further the cause of Christ

Quote: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."—**John Wesley**

- D. Generosity connects us as partners in God's work

3. TAKE Joy : GRACE-GIVING ISN'T DRUDGERY BUT A DELIGHT (v. 9:6-8)

- A. The Lord is pleased not only in our giving but in our cheerful enthusiasm (v. 9:7)

Quote: "Once you see the matter of giving is centered in this lovely word grace, it lifts the whole act away from mechanics, from pressure and duty, from obligation and mere legalism. It lifts us up into the most lovely atmosphere of an activity which seeks by giving to convey to others all that is lovely, all that is beautiful, all that is good, and all that is glorious. What a lovely word this word is... For there is no area in the Christian life in which grace shines out so much, so beautifully, so delightfully, and so happily as when giving comes from the background of poverty."

—Allan Redpath

- B. God will provide for our needs (v. 8)

*"For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity."
(Philippians 4:16)*

- C. What we give to the Lord always has a further reach for God's glory (v. 6)

"Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." (Philippians 4:17) in God's account books

CONCLUSION

- many forms of giving - time, money,
* Heb 13:15 sacrifice of praise (words)
x fruit of our lips giving thanks



Lancaster Baptist Church • 4020 E. Lancaster Blvd. • Lancaster, CA 93535
661.946.4663 • lancasterbaptist.org • Paul Chappell, Pastor