

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 9:1-6

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-825 FEBRUARY 16, 2014

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.

Part 5

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Service, Dedication, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

2nd Corinthians 9:6-15

Where we have Come from in **Chapters 8 & 9** “Grace Giving”

And It's Beyond Question – It's a Proven Fact; *That Historical, Biblical Christianity Has Proven to be The Most “Generous Faith” Practiced on Earth – But Why?*

*If in Chapter 8:9 the **accelerant** for our giving was made known...*

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.***

*Likewise here in **Chapter 9:7** is the **pathos** to our giving...*

2 Corinthians 9:7

*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, **not grudgingly or of necessity;** for God loves a **cheerful giver.***

2 Cor. 9:6-15

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.** **8** And God is **able** to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. **9** As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” **:10** Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, **11** while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. **12** For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God. **13** while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, **14** and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. **15** Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

1.) Joyful giving blesses the giver

v. 6-11

6: But this I say: He who **sows sparingly** (*tight fisted*) will also **reap sparingly** (*tight fisted*), and he who **sows bountifully** (*blessings*) will also **reap bountifully** (*blessings*)

blessings = good things, encouraging things, happy things.

Paul shares with us what is a Natural Law or an Observable Law in Nature.
That is – it's a fact of life that you can see, touch and know it to be true.

A Local Illustration:

If you drive down Kimball Ave. today as you near the airport you will see fields so thick and green that from a distance it looks like acres and acres of green carpet – but I know it's not carpet because every year that farmer produces the best corn on the cob that you will ever eat. That farmer sows alot of seed to get that kind of a harvest.

sows sparingly - sows bountifully
you cannot go beyond yourself vs. you going far beyond yourself

Proverbs 11:24-25

There is **one** who scatters, yet increases more; (*Jesus-Like*) And there is **one** who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty. (*Man-Like*) **25** The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.

In a Real Sense, Perhaps the Most Perfect Sense –
“Giving is an Act of Worship”

1 John 3:16-17

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. **17** But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

What do I mean by “Joyful giving Blesses The Giver”? *Joyful giving puts us in the place of God's favor. You cannot earn His favor, but He does respond to our acts of love and obedience.*

We Can Afford To Give – Believe Me, We're Rich

Phil 4:19

And my God shall **supply all your need** (how) **according to His riches in glory** (*from the BOG = bank of glory*) by Christ Jesus.

Sowing has got to look silly as the farmer “apparently” throws perfectly good seed away. The seed is thrown to the ground and left alone where it dies and dissolves but as time passes - something begins to happen, it sprouts and grows and the Farmer did that in hope!

Like The Farmer – Giving Puts us into the ministry.
(*it allows us to go to the places Jesus would go*)

Like The Farmer – Giving Causes us to stay in the fight.
(*because there's an excitement and hope about advancing the kingdom*)

Like The Farmer – Giving Grows our hearts with grace
(*we appreciate more and more of what God has given us*)

I have tried to keep things in my hands and lost them all, but what I have given to God, I still possess.
- **Martin Luther**

7: So let **each one give** as he **purposes** in his **heart**, not **grudgingly** or of **necessity**; for God loves a **cheerful** giver.

Purposes grk: προαιρέομαι **proaireomai**, *pro-ah-ee-reh'-om-ah-ee*; to decide for oneself, to choose for oneself independently. to self determine. to self appoint.

The Bible is Saying Here

– you decide how much you want to get onboard this Kingdom living stuff by how and what you give to God.

Grudgingly λύπη **lupe**, *loo'-pay*; to be made sad or saddened. to be made grievous, + grudgingly, heaviness, sorrow.

Necessity ἀναγκή **anagke**, *an-ang-kay'*; to be put under constraint. to be pressed or squeezed.

Cheerful ἡλαρός **hilaros**, *hil-ar-os'*; to be merry, glad hearted. To be joyously willing.

8: And God is **able** to make **all grace abound toward you**, that you, **always having all sufficiency in all things**, may have an **abundance** for **every** good work.

And God is **able** = **It is by His power, might, resources, strength.**
to make **all grace abound toward you**, = **to give and to give and to give**
that you, **always having all sufficiency in all things**, = **forever enough**
may have an **abundance** for **every** good work. = **leftovers to meet the needs**

9: As it is written: “He has **dispersed abroad**, He has **given** to the poor; His **righteousness** endures forever.”

Here Paul paraphrases Psalm 112

Psalm 112: 9

He (the man) has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever; His horn will be exalted with honor.

Here's an Awesome Mind-Blower - Jesus Gave a Commentary on This Verse

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be **given to you**: **good measure**, **pressed down**, **shaken together**, and **running over** will be put into your bosom. For with the **same measure** that you use, it will be **measured back** to you.”

HELLO - GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

In verses 10-11 Paul **breaks out** into a prayer for the **Corinthian Christians**

10: Now may **He (God) who supplies seed** to the sower, and **bread** for food, **supply** and **multiply** the **seed** you have sown and **increase** the **fruits** of your righteousness,

Notice here what God has provided us.

God is the One who has been faithful to give us the origin of all that is good.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

11: while you are **enriched** in **everything** for all **liberality**, which causes **thanksgiving** through us to **God**.

(*in the future tense of the argument*)

while you are **enriched** in **everything** for all **liberality**,

(*so give and keep on giving*)

God Speaking Here:

“If you would only become “a middle man” for Me - between Me and the man or woman, the church in need, I would pour back into you upon more and more as you are faithful to give and give”

Sincerely, God

Here’s The Big Question;

We’ve all read in **1 Peter 2:9**, but have we understood it?

1 Pet. 2:9

But **YOU ARE** a **chosen generation**, (**YOU ARE**) a **royal priesthood**, (**YOU ARE**) a **holy nation**, (**YOU ARE**) His own **special people**, that **YOU MAY proclaim the praises of Him** who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

So **HOW ARE** we to be living now as God’s **chosen**, His **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**? – by **proclaiming the praises of Him, HOW ?** **By Becoming a “God-Like-Giver”**

Remember Now, God Practices What He Preaches

James 1:5

If any of you lacks **wisdom** (*not an education*), let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

It’s Always Right for the Christian to Desire God’s Perfect Will

This is God’s Will

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**

This is God’s Will

1 Thess. 3:12

Now may the **Lord** make you **increase** and **abound** in love to *one another* and *to all*, just as we do to you, **13** so that **He** may **establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

This is God’s Will

John 15:7-8

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **8** By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

2.) Joyful giving generates praise

v. 12

12: For the **administration** of this service (1) not only **supplies the needs** of the saints, but (2) also is **abounding** through many **thanksgiving(s)** to God,

The Practicality of Giving

#1 – It **literally** helped people out. #2 – It **spiritually** touched God's heart.

Administration **διακονία diakonia**, *dee-ak-on-ee'-ah*; the attending to, to serve, to give, to relieve.

Luke 22:24-27

Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. **25** And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' **26** But not so among you; on the contrary, **he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.** **27** For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? **Yet I am among you as the One who serves.**

Gal. 5:13

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not **use liberty** as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love **serve one another.**

(use every bit of liberty that you have to reach others)

Jesus Did – He Chose to Reach You

Our individual, but collective Christian giving

Becomes an undeniable proof of our Confession of Christ. (works, deeds, service, love, ministry)

7 Times in the Book of Revelation Jesus Christ Says...
"I Know Your **Works**"

Rev. 22:12

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one **according to his work.**

But How Do I Do This Jack?

Present Yourself "Usable" to God and He will show you what it is that He wants you to do for others and when you do it for others – you're doing it for Him !

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

3.) Joyful giving glorifies God

v. 13

13: while, through **the proof** (*to do it*) of this ministry, they **glorify God** for (#1) the obedience of your confession to **The Gospel of Christ**, and (#2) for your **liberal sharing** with them and all men,

sharing **κοινωνία koinonia**, *koy-nohn-ee'-ah*; partnership, fellowship, intercourse, communication. union or unity.

A Timely Warning Is Needed Here

We need to be careful to be wise about giving and receiving.

What you have under your control (if you're a Christian) is **a sacred trust** committed to you by God. – He has made you a manager over His stuff.

That means our **“cultural influences”** must be brought **under the authority of the Scriptures.**

It means our **“financial successes”** must be brought **under the authority of the Scriptures.**

It means our **“future planning”** must be brought **under the authority of the Scriptures.**

In Our Giving, We Need to Make Sure “God Gets the Glory”

“If you give in order that you might have more to give, you are right in line with God's program.” - *Dr. Ray Stedman*
(channel it out as God directs you)

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

4.) Joyful giving empowers the Church v. 14-15

14 and by **their** prayer for you,
who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.

*“A gift given to someone in need brings immediate and practical relief.
But a gift given does something even greater – it tells the man in need, that Heaven knows and God cares.
How many of us have been satisfied just to rest in the fact that God knew about our situation.”*

Paul ends this amazing instruction on giving, which BTW, he started back in chapter 8 - and all along the way he stressed that God is our example of what it means to give.

Support and Acts of Love Toward a Church - Authenticates the Churches Witness to Proclaim the Love and Power of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 10:b
Freely you have received, freely give

Paul has saved the best for last

Thanks be to God for His **indescribable** gift!

God gave us **HIS INDESCRIBABLE**
GIFT = Jesus Christ !!

When we give, we must always remember what God gave us – His own Son Jesus Christ.

It's Jesus Christ, The Lamb of God.

Romans 5:8-9

But God **demonstrates** His own **love** (*grace giving*) toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (*grace giving*). 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

So let's too, **break out** in prayer as Paul did.

“Father, we come to you in the name of Jesus Christ, your Only Son, our Salvation. We ask that you would fulfill this word in our lives. That **You who supply seed** to us the sower, and **bread for food, supply** and **multiply** the **seed** that we have sown and cause it to **increase** the **fruits of our righteousness**, 11 May we also be **enriched** in **everything** for all **liberality**, which may cause us to be examples to others by our **thanksgiving** to you O' **God**.”

“When you worship in giving, make sure that
love is your inspiration and *sacrifice* is your measure.”

- G. Campbell-Morgan

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<

End of Study

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