

Sermon title: Own the good of your neighbor & your generation (OWN)
Scripture reading: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 & 1 Timothy 6:17-19

God calls us to responsible stewardship & growing generosity with our resources because He wants something for us not from us.

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;
another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.
²⁵ Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered.
Proverbs 11:24-25

We want you to know, brothers, about **the grace of God** that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, **their abundance of joy** and **their extreme poverty** have **overflowed in a wealth of generosity** on their part. ³ For they gave **according to their means**, as I can testify, and **beyond their means**, of their own accord, ⁴ **begging us earnestly** for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵ and this, not as we expected, but **they gave themselves first to the Lord** and **then by the will of God to us**.
2 Corinthians 8:1-5

The abundance [outpouring] of grace on them + The abundance of joy in them = An abundance of generosity from them

For you know **the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**, that though **he was rich**, yet **for your sake he became poor**, so that you **by his poverty might become rich**
2 Corinthians 8:9

Guiding Principle 1:

Generosity is the outworking of grace & gratitude not capacity or coercion.

Guiding Principle 2:

God envisions a growing generosity that scales primarily with our belief & understanding of the gospel not the resources we have in our possession.

⁴ **begging us earnestly** for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵ and this, not as we expected, but **they gave themselves first to the Lord** and **then by the will of God to us**.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places... ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance... ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints
Ephesians 1:3, 11, & 18

Resist the temptation to remove yourself from the responsibilities God has given you.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

As for the rich in **this present age**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from **the present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Galatians 1:3-5

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, **because the days are evil**.

Ephesians 5:15-16

For David, after he had **served the purpose of God in his own generation**, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption,

Acts 13:36

Of Issachar, men **who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do**

1 Chronicles 12:32

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nor to **set their hopes** on the uncertainty of riches, but on God

Hope is a strong confidence & expectation that has the power to determine action

Whoever trusts in his riches will fall,

but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

Proverbs 11:28

Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed;

he will answer him from his holy heaven

with the saving might of his right hand.

⁷ **Some trust in chariots and some in horses,**

but **we trust in the name of the Lord our God.**

Psalms 20:6-7

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help
and rely on horses,
who trust in chariots because they are many
and **in horsemen because they are very strong,**
but **do not look to the Holy One of Israel**
or consult the Lord!
Isaiah 31:1

And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully,¹⁷ and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’¹⁸ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.’¹⁹ **And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”**²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”
Luke 12:15-21

God calls us to grow in our generosity not to get money out of our pockets but to get idols out of our hearts.

Guiding Principle 3:
Wealth [Money] is a terrible goD but a tremendous tool.

but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy

¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future

So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not **rich toward God.**”
Luke 12:21

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will repay him for his deed.
Proverbs 19:17

By this **we know love**, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does **God's love** abide in him?¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.
1 John 3:16-18

Guiding Principle 4:

A growing generosity changes **the orbit of our wealth [money]** from ‘us & Earth’ to ‘Jesus & eternity’.

“...so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

John 17:3

Critique & refine your budget **with** the gospel & eternity.

A basic budget for **responsible stewardship**

1. Know
2. Give
3. Save
4. Spend

A basic budget for responsible stewardship (critiqued & refined **with** the gospel & eternity)

1. Know
 - a. *“Is there a **financial generosity goal** I want to accomplish in my generation?”*
 - b. *“Is there a strategic burden or need **on my heart or in my community?**”*
2. Give
 - a. *“Is my giving on **cruise control** or am I growing in worship?”*
 - b. *“Have I **raised the floor** in terms of giving?”*
3. Save
 - a. *“Where are my **saving habits** connected to **strategic generosity?**”*
4. Spend
 - a. *“How am I practicing **simplicity** in my spending?”*