



# CHRISTMAS

—AT HARVEST BUFFALO—

CHEERFULLY GIVING  
AT CHRISTMAS

*2 Corinthians 8:1-9*

*Page 563*

# Survey: Why do people give Christmas presents?



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4. I like the way it feels.



# Survey: Why do people give Christmas presents?

1. I think it's expected.
2. I don't want to look cheap.
3. I want to maintain relationships.
4. I like the way it feels.
5. I love them!



# Big Idea

What informs our giving will determine our collective culture.



# The Jerusalem Offering



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- Caused by the influx of new believers from Pentecost



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- Caused by the influx of new believers from Pentecost
- Caused by massive persecution for the Gospel



# The Jerusalem Offering

- Caused by the influx of new believers from Pentecost
- Caused by massive persecution for the Gospel
- Caused by harsh economic conditions by the Romans





# Cheerfully Giving at Christmas

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

## BIG IDEA:

What informs our giving will determine our collective culture.

1. MY GIVING MUST  
BE EXPLAINED BY  
GRACE  
EXCLUSIVELY



- Only grace enables giving despite my troubles.



- Only grace enables giving despite my troubles.
- Only grace enables giving despite my means



- Only grace enables giving despite my troubles.
- Only grace enables giving despite my means
- Only grace enables giving joyfully in adversity



- Only grace enables giving despite my troubles.
- Only grace enables giving despite my means
- Only grace enables giving joyfully in adversity
- Only grace enables others-focused generosity



# Cheerfully Giving at Christmas

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

## BIG IDEA:

What informs our giving will determine our collective culture.

1. My giving must be explained by grace exclusively

2. MY GIVING MUST  
BE MEASURED  
PROPORTIONATELY



- Jesus praised the poor widow (Mark 12:43-44)



- Jesus praised the poor widow (Mark 12:43-44)
- Jesus praised the rich Zacchaeus (Luke 19:8-9)



# Cheerfully Giving at Christmas

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

## BIG IDEA:

What informs our giving will determine our collective culture.

1. My giving must be explained by grace exclusively
2. My giving must be measured proportionately

3. MY GIVING MUST  
BE OFFERED  
SACRIFICIALLY



Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the  
firstfruits of all your produce;

Proverbs 3:9



But the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing.”

2 Samuel 24:24a



# Cheerfully Giving at Christmas

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

## BIG IDEA:

What informs our giving will determine our collective culture.

1. My giving must be explained by grace exclusively
2. My giving must be measured proportionately
3. My giving must be offered sacrificially



MY GIVING MUST  
BE PREPARED  
VOLUNTARILY



“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Luke 6:38



# Cheerfully Giving at Christmas

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

## BIG IDEA:

What informs our giving will determine our collective culture.

1. My giving must be explained by grace exclusively
2. My giving must be measured proportionately
3. My giving must be offered sacrificially
4. My giving must be prepared voluntarily

# 5. MY GIVING MUST BE EXPRESSED WORSHIPFULLY



I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2



# Cheerfully Giving at Christmas

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

## BIG IDEA:

What informs our giving will determine our collective culture.

1. My giving must be explained by grace exclusively
2. My giving must be measured proportionately
3. My giving must be offered sacrificially
4. My giving must be prepared voluntarily
5. My giving must be expressed worshipfully

# APPLY TO LIFE

1. WHERE IS GOD'S GRACE SHOWING UP IN YOUR GIVING HABITS?
2. WHERE IS OWNERSHIP ECLIPSING WORSHIP IN YOUR VIEW OF MONEY?
3. WHAT NEEDS TO BE REMOVED, RESTORED, OR REPENTED OF FOR MY HEART TO BEAT FOR GOD'S PEOPLE AND KINGDOM?