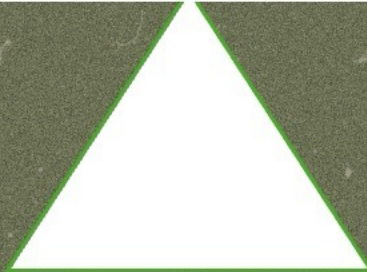


Party

Rooted

Pros.

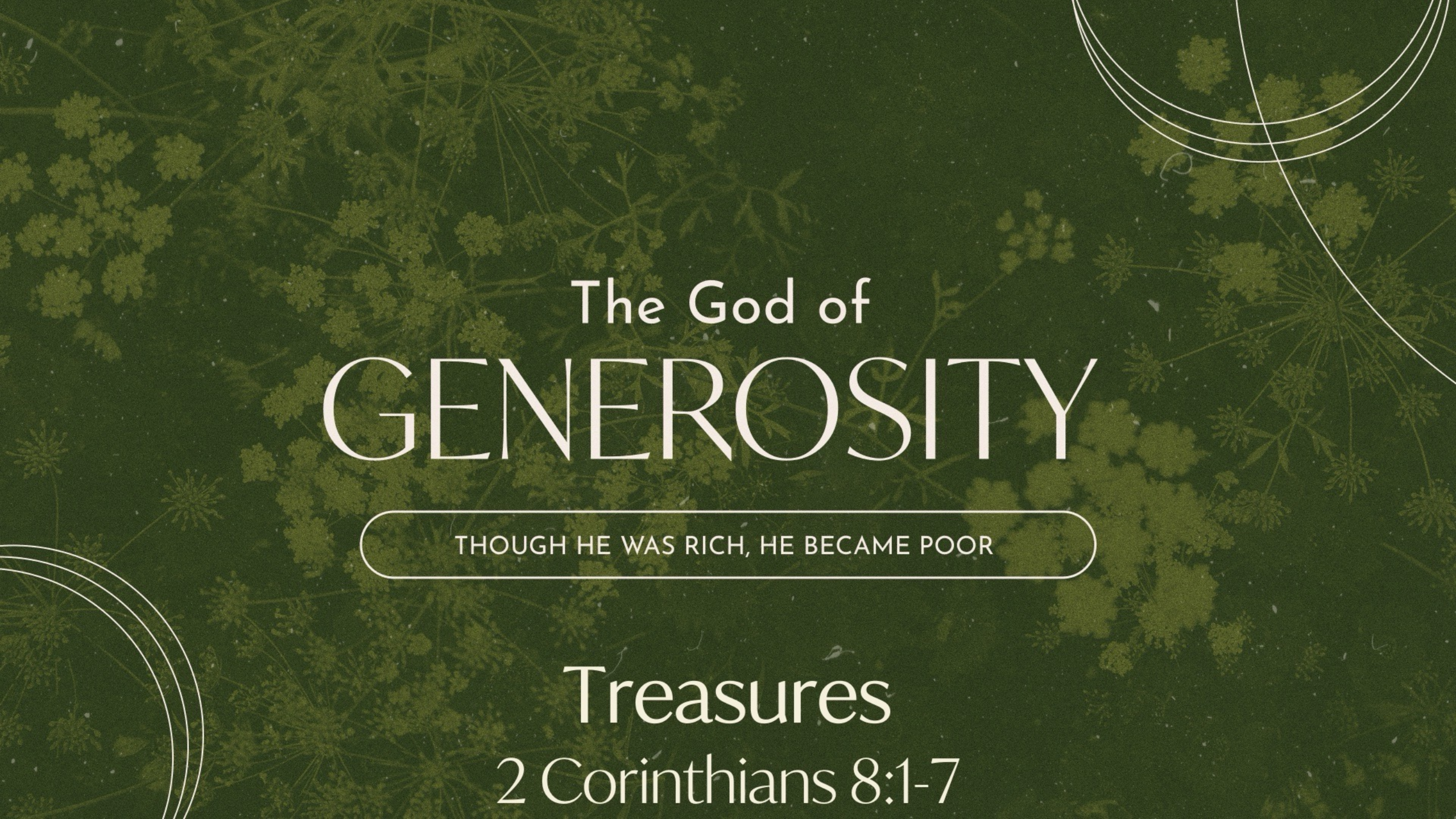
Relevant





“Tradition is the living faith of the dead,
traditionalism is the dead faith of the living.”

Jaroslav Pelikan

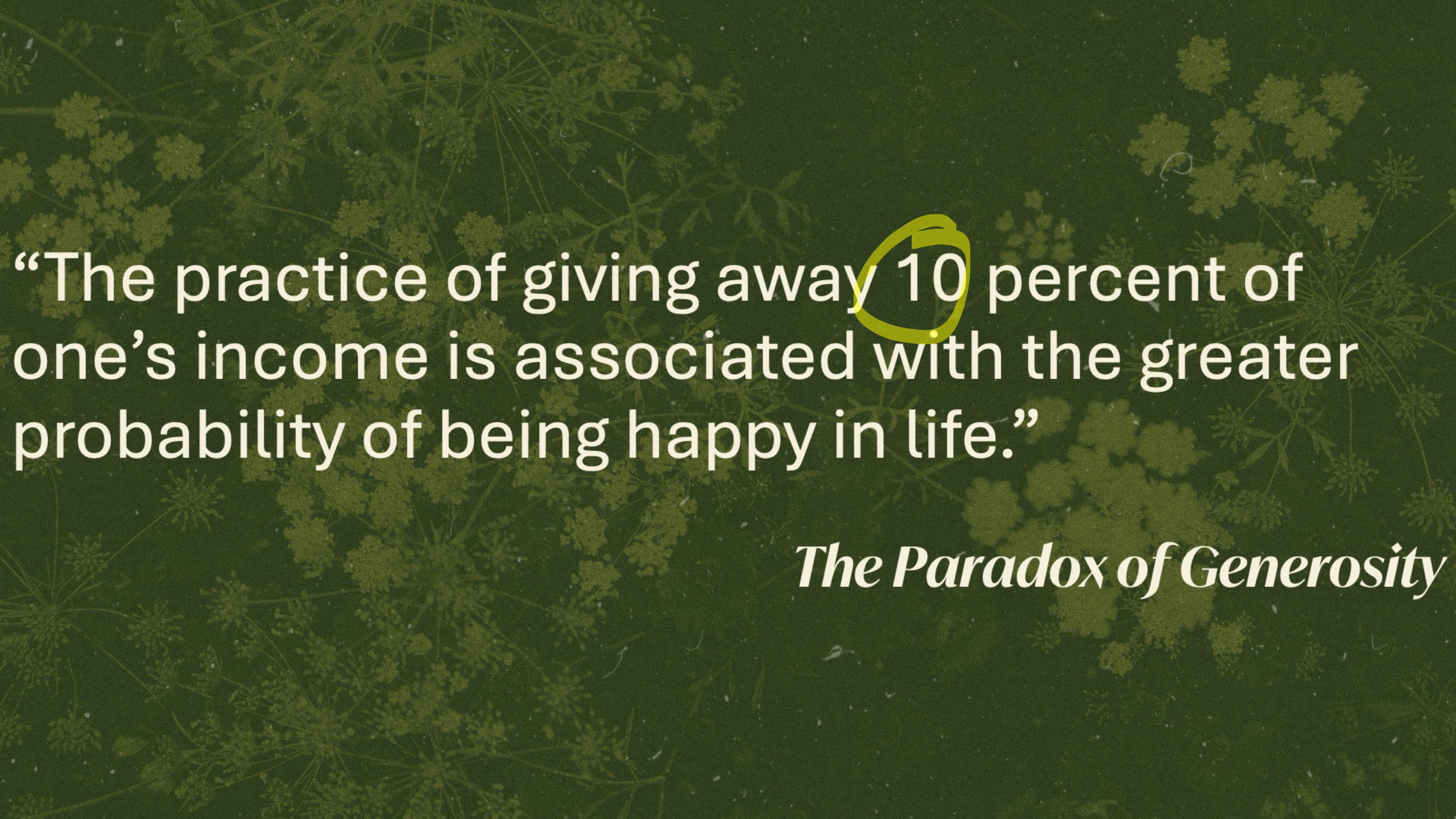


The God of GENEROSITY

THOUGH HE WAS RICH, HE BECAME POOR

Treasures

2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (page 1027)



“The practice of giving away 10 percent of one’s income is associated with the greater probability of being happy in life.”

The Paradox of Generosity

The Giving Gap

Changes in Evangelical Generosity



“Generosity is the proportion of household income given away. The average donor gives 2.8% of household income to church (down from 3.2% in 2021). An average of 1.1% of household income is given to charity outside of church (down from 1.4%). Between church and charity, the average evangelical donor’s generosity is 3.3% of household income, which is down from an average of 4% three years ago.”

The Giving Gap

“Because both household income and giving amounts are estimates, we consider tithing to be generosity of 8% or greater, to allow for a little play in the figures. The proportion of all evangelicals who tithe has fallen from 13% in 2021 to 10% today. The older the evangelical and the more spiritually engaged she or he is, the higher the proportion who tithe.”

The Giving Gap

“Not only are people who are fully engaged spiritually more likely to give, but they average much higher giving. Average total generosity among donors is 5.1% of household income when spiritual engagement is Full. This drops to 3.6% when it is High, 3.1% at Moderate, and just 1.8% when spiritual engagement is Low/None.”

The proportion of evangelicals who financially supported a church in the last 12 months fell from 74% in 2021 to 61% today. That represents a 17% decrease. The proportion who gave to nonprofits or ministries outside of church fell from 58% to 50%, which is a 13% decrease. The proportion who gave to both church and charity dropped 17%, from 51% to 42%.

Well, not every one of the numbers is down. The proportion of evangelicals who did not give a dime to either church or charity rose 59% over the past three years, from 19% in 2021 to 31% today.

The Giving Gap



1) Grow in This Grace

¹We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that was given to the churches of Macedonia: ²During a severe trial brought about by affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability, of their own accord, ⁴they begged us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints, ⁵and not just as we had hoped. Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us by God's will.

Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another. Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.

Romans 12:9-13

⁶So we urged Titus that just as he had begun, so he should also complete among you this act of grace.

⁷Now as you excel in everything—in faith, speech, knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love for us—excel also in this act of grace. ⁸I am not saying this as a command. Rather, by means of the diligence of others, I am testing the genuineness of your love. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

¹⁰And in this matter I am giving advice because it is profitable for you, who began last year not only to do something but also to want to do it. ¹¹Now also finish the task, so that just as there was an eager desire, there may also be a completion, according to what you have. ¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

Congregation Questions Pastor's Lavish Lifestyle Upon Purchase Of '98 Corolla

CHURCH · Jun 17, 2016 · BabylonBee.com



FREDERICK, MD - A quorum of church members at Ridgewood Church voted 56 - 3 in favor of formally reprimanding teaching pastor Stewart Coles for reckless and irresponsible spending upon the discovery that he splurged on an as-is 1998 Toyota Corolla he spotted on Craigslist.

¹³It is not that there should be relief for others and hardship for you, but it is a question of equality.

¹⁴At the present time your surplus is available for their need, so that their abundance may in turn meet your need, in order that there may be

equality. ¹⁵As it is written: "The person who had much did not have too much, and the person who had little did not have too little."

“Don’t store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don’t break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

Then I'll say to myself, "You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself."

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared—whose will they be?'

"That's how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:19-21

“For a Christian to be a financial steward of his or her money without living a life of radical generosity is like being a musician without an instrument or a pilot without a plane...We are told to ‘save, save, save,’ but the gospel calls us to ‘give, give, give.’”

Gospel Generosity

- 
- 1) **Grow in This Grace**
 - 2) **How Much is God's?**

“Population will inevitably and completely outstrip whatever small increases in food supplies we make the death rate will increase until at least 100-200 million people per year will be starving to death during the next ten years.”

Paul Ehrlich

Now the one who provides **seed** for the sower and **bread** for food will also provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:7-10

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17

In fact, when we were with you, this is what we commanded you: "If anyone isn't willing to work, he should not eat." For we hear that there are some among you who are idle. They are not busy but busybodies. Now we command and exhort such people by the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly and provide for themselves.

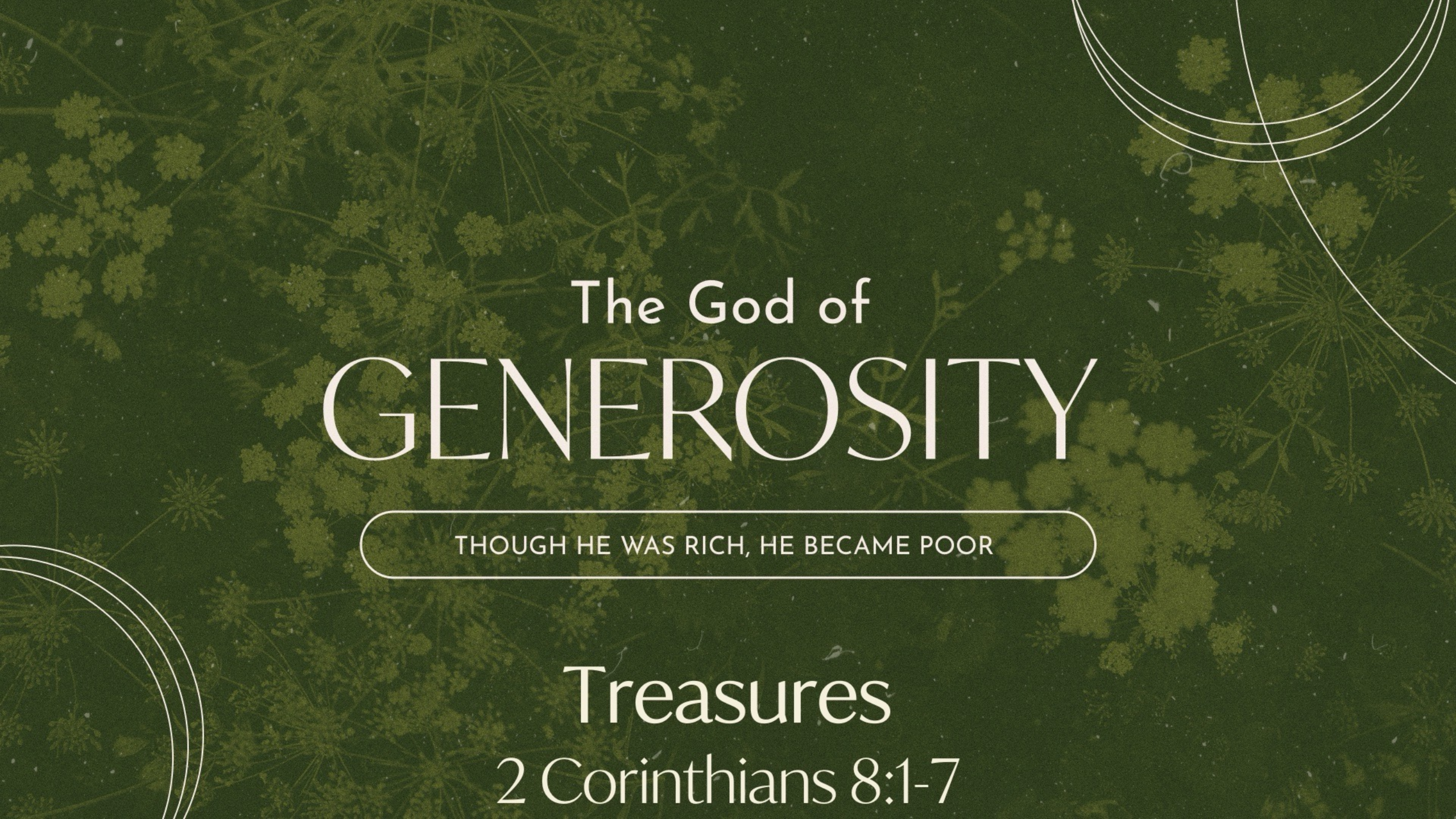
2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

- 
- 1) **Grow in This Grace**
 - 2) **How Much is God's?**
 - 3) **What About Tithing?**

- Levitical tithe (Lev. 27:30-33, Num. 18)
- Festival Tithe (Deut. 14:22-27)
- Charity Tithe (Deut. 14:28-29)

“Tithing was given as a legal requirement, while generosity is a benefit of the freedom we have in Christ...Gospel generosity is an *opportunity* to display the saving work of Jesus Christ in your life”

Gospel Generosity



The God of GENEROSITY

THOUGH HE WAS RICH, HE BECAME POOR

Treasures
2 Corinthians 8:1-7