

II Corinthians 8-9 – 15 May 2022

“Tangibly Giving To The Work Of God”

Introduction

- *Paul was 1.5 yrs here (2nd M.T.), made lots of disciples
- *Book Theme: Minister’s Life: temporary pain & eternal gain
- *As servants of Christ, we’re here to expend all that God gives us on promoting and building His kingdom
- *John Wooden (basketball coach) once said, “Don’t let making a living prevent you from making a life”
- *Some people get so caught up in *bringing in* the money, that they become selfish & unconcerned with *putting out* the money to the right places
- *So how do we properly give to the work of the Lord?
- *Chap 8 & 9 are some of the primary teachings on the subject of monetary giving in the N.T.
- *Let’s look at 3 keys to proper, Biblical giving**

1st key to Christian giving is Wholeness: Giving your whole being (Chap 8:1-15)

Read Vs 1-2

1. We want you to know that the churches of Macedonia gave bountifully thru affliction & poverty, yet it was great joy to them
2. Macedonia: Phillipi, Berea, Thessalonica, etc.

Read Vs 3-5

1. They earnestly desire that Paul would take the money for the poor saints in Jerusalem
2. In giving; the real issue is, have you given yourself to the Lord wholly?
3. Their giving was just a natural part of their whole life of giving and serving

Read Vs 6-8

1. Titus was sent for the money from the Corinthians to send back to Jerusalem

2. They intended to give, but have to complete it to show the truth or legitimacy of their love
3. Notice giving is just another expression of Christianity like speaking for God (Read Rom 12:8)

Read Vs 9

1. Jesus poured out Himself, so others could be made rich
2. This is so much more than just money

Read Vs 10-11

1. Read Matt 21:28-31
2. It's the one that DID the will of the father

Read Vs 12-14

1. It's not the amount of giving, it's the % of it
2. Tithing is a good starting principle, but there are more principles to add
 - a. Done of willing mind (vs 12)
 - b. Done cheerfully (chap 9:7)
 - c. Giving is 'part of' 'whole' dedication (vs 7)

3. In your mind, you're asking 1 of 2 questions
 - a. How little can I give & still please to God?
 - b. How much can I give to God & still afford life?
4. "Having money to give isn't a financial issue, it's a heart issue" –Dan Shunk

Read Vs 15

1. Quote from gathering manna in the wilderness
2. God's intention is that everyone has their spiritual needs met even in a very material way
 - a. Isn't communism, b/c this is from the heart, not from compulsion
 - b. This isn't communism from compulsion, this is communion from compassion

**2nd key to Christian giving is Accountability:
Giving with integrity (Chap 8:16-9:5)**

Read Vs 16-19

1. Paul's thankful that Titus & this unnamed brother were willing to go to Corinth to collect the money & return it to the poor believers in Jerusalem

2. Notice the money is a proof of their state of readiness to help and support other Christians

Read Vs 20-22

1. Many money collectors = accountability
2. Bible says live blameless or above reproach

Read Vs 23-24

1. Corinthians, you can trust these men to deliver your money

Read Vs 1-3

1. It's overboard for Paul to even need write this b/c they're already ready to provide for the poor

Read Vs 4-5

1. Paul simply wants to give them a 'heads up' for this collection so that no one is embarrassed by not being ready to take the collection
2. He's not asking for public show, he just wants them to be prepared
 - a. Read Matt 6:1-4 – do your alms secretly

3rd key to Christian giving is Gratitude: Giving because of Jesus (Chap 9:6-15)

Read Vs 6-7

1. Not about the pocket book, it's about the heart
2. Now let your heart come out your pocket book
 - a. Read Luk 6:38 –What you sow, you'll reap
3. This is about money but applies to all forms of giving from our life

Read Vs 8-9

1. Having confidence that God is able to give you all that you need, enables you to give to others

Read Vs 10-11

1. A prayer for God to...
 - a. Provide for the Corinthians
 - b. Multiply their offering to Jerusalem
 - c. Increase effects of Corinthians right living
2. Corinthian's fruitfulness causes Paul to thank God for them

Read Vs 12

1. Giving not only meets the needs of poor but shows your gratitude to God for meeting your needs
2. JOKE – the safe way to double your money is to take out your bills, fold them over once & put them back in your pocket
 - a. In reality, only safe bet is to trust God

Read Vs 13-14

1. Receivers will then glorify God for your giving & long to see you b/c of God's grace seen thru you
 - a. It's all about relationship, not rigid giving
 - b. Josh Billings said, "*Money will buy a pretty good dog, but it won't buy the wag of his tail.*"

Read Vs 15

1. Giving to others should always be wrapped in the knowledge of God's unspeakable gift to us in the face of Jesus Christ's gift of eternal life to us
2. "For God so loved the world that He gave..."

Conclusion

Although the specific giving of this chapter is to support the poor believers “back home”, these principles of giving certainly apply universally

1. **Principle of Wholeness: Give your whole being**
 - a. Money is just a partial outward expression of a total life change on the inside
 - b. You’re either trying to give or trying to avoid giving – what direction are you headed?
2. **Principle of Accountability: Give w/ integrity**
 - a. Give and receive honestly before God
 - b. Avoid scam causes & give directly to God
3. **Principle of Gratitude: Give b/c of Jesus**
 - a. Only right motivation to give is that you’ve first received from God all things
 - b. When you KNOW that God will meet your needs, you able to have a heart of looking to meet others needs as they happen

For Memory: Relationship will **WAG** the dog’s tail