

SCRIPTURE: 2 Cor. 8:1-15; 9:6-15 TITLE: "Gospel Giving"
Intro: "My goal is to convince you not to give, unless you really want to."

Thesis: Because Jesus Has Given us So Much, We can Give for His Glory!

I. Jesus Gave & Gave Generously (8:9; 9:13-15)

- A. A Proper understanding of Giving, comes from a Proper understanding of the Gospel.
- B. Look at What Jesus Has Done for us. He became Poor. He gave everything!
- C. Jesus didn't just give 10%. He didn't just give an arm and a leg. He gave all of Himself.
- D. *"Easy for Jesus. He knew after all that, He'd be back w/ Father w/ everything."* **SAME!**
- E. It was sacrifice. It hurt. Wasn't easy. Asked the Father if there was any other way.
- F. He was willing to sacrifice. That's what it means to be generous. Need. Gift. Jesus.
- G. We didn't deserve it. Weren't entitled to it. We were enemies. **John 3:16. Rom. 8:32.**

II. We Give (8:1-2; 6-8; 10-15)

- A. Christians give because they've been given so much.
- B. Spirit produces this in our hearts. A desire to give. He works *through* His people. Means.
- C. Money didn't just appear in the church account, it got there through individuals/groups who allowed the Holy Spirit to work through them to accomplish His purpose here.
- D. That is God's grace & love working through you. **8:1-2; 6-8.**
- E. **The Rule (Law) is Love. 8:8. Eph. 4:28. Acts 20:32-35. 1 Cor. 13:3.**
- F. As the Lord has provided for you, Give according to your means.
- G. **OT. 10% Tithe.** It's a good base number. **Mal. 3:6-10. "Robbing God."**
- H. **It's Fair. It's Just. (10-15).** *"Well, I worked hard for what I got."* . Yea. But how?

ILLUSTRATION: Exodus 16:14-21. Manna. Whatever people needed, they got. Don't hoard.

APPLICATION: 1. Giving is NOT: a. Country Club Members Dues. b. Vote/Voice/Power. c. Personal Investment d. Guilt/Shame Motivated e. Favor/Pleasing to God. Won't like you more.

2. Giving IS: a. Overflow of Faith/Grace/Love b. Produced by Spirit c. Personal Discipleship

III. We Give Generously (9:6-12; 8:1-5)

- A. **To be generous means you feel it.** It hurts a little. Sacrifice. Because Jesus did for you.

ILLUSTRATION: Macedonians. 8:1-5. Surprised Paul. Generous Sacrifice. **"Beyond means."**

- B. **OT: "Tithes" 10%/Firstfruits. General/Expected Obedience to cover ministry costs.**
- C. **OT; Freewill "Offerings"** (voluntary/spontaneous) gift for projects/special needs/desires.
- D. **v.9:7. Not under compulsion. Not pressured. But willingly/cheerfully. MATERIAL.**
- E. **"Sow a Seed of Faith."** *You're giving to Jesus for His Kingdom. Seed doesn't become a bunch more seed for the sower. It becomes tree/bush/vine; which produces fruit, which has more seed. But that seed isn't for the original fruit. It's for a bigger produce. More fields. Nourish & feed more people. You get blessed from being a part.*
- F. **If you He does give you more, He gives you more, so you can give more.**
- G. **The goal is that God would use your giving to be fruit for His Kingdom as more people experience the grace of Gos through Jesus Christ, which will result in more giving/resources for Kingdom Work to spread through whole world for God's Glory!**

CONCLUSION/APPLICATION:

- 1. **5 YEARS IN. 5 YEARS MORE!** Let's do this. Let's go! Will we be here after?
- 2. **Building for God's Glory.** We want to grow. For Jesus's Name. Kingdom. People's lives!

ILLUSTRATION: Building for God's Glory! Ex. 34:4-9; 20-35; 36:1-7 "Ok Stop!"

The Lord moved in their hearts to give generously a freewill/extra offering.

- 3. **Generosity:** Community. Missions. More Church Planting. Staff. **RADIUS.**
- 4. **Only the Holy Spirit through an understanding of the Gospel can do this.** This is unnatural. His grace changing us and our stingy/selfish hearts, to be generous to others.

So Don't Give: Unless you know He's already given you everything you have/more than you deserve, unless you want to be used by Him to build His Kingdom for His glory. Then, Give as He leads and convinces you that you should give. *I think 10% is an clear/reasonable number.*