

EXCELLING IN GENEROSITY

Pastor David Clotfelter

February 19, 2017

Text: 2 Corinthians 8-9

Christian Giving is Voluntary, Not Enforced

"For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord" (2 Corinthians 8:3)

"So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.... Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:5, 7)

It is Generous, Not Stingy

"... 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." (2 Corinthians 8:2)

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." (2 Corinthians 9:6)

"By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others," (2 Corinthians 9:13)

It is Enthusiastic, Not Grudging

"... begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—" (2 Corinthians 8:4)

"... for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7)

It is Deliberate, Not Haphazard

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart," (2 Corinthians 9:7)

It is Christ's Love that Frees Us to Be Generous

"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)