

# Stepping into the Grace of Giving

# 1 Cor 9:1-15

## Last Week...

- 1.) The Macedonian churches very severe trial could not keep them from giving.
- 2.) The Macedonian churches had rich generosity in the midst of extreme poverty
- 3.) The Macedonian churches gave beyond their ability
- 4.) The Macedonian churches pleaded for the privilege of sharing in giving.

**5 things the Apostle Paul  
wants them to remember...**

# 1. You reap what you sow

*(2 Cor 9:6 NIV) Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

# From Proverbs...

*(Prov 11:24 NIV) One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.*

*(Prov 19:17 NIV) He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.*

*(Prov 22:9 NIV) A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor..*

# From the New Testament

*(Luke 6:38 NIV) Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.“*

*(Gal 6:9 NIV) Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

## 2. God loves a cheerful giver

*(2 Cor 9:7 NIV) Each man should give what he has **decided in his heart** to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*



# Does this add up?

*(2 Cor 8:2 NIV)*

*Out of the **most severe trial**,  
their **overflowing joy**  
and their **extreme poverty**  
welled up in **rich generosity**.*

# Counter Intuitive

*What about ...*

*Love your enemies*

*Pray for those who despise you*

*The meek shall inherit the Earth.*

# It is a heart matter

*(Exo 25:2 NIV) "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give.*

# 3. God gives the ability to give

*(2 Cor 9:8-9 NIV) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, **having all that you need**, you will **abound in every good work**. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."*

# Faith expressing through love

*(Gal 5:6 NIV) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*

# 4. Giving begins and ends with God

*(2 Cor 9:10-11 NIV) Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

# The result is thanksgiving to God

*(2 Cor 9:12-14 NIV) This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, **men will praise God** for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.*

# 5. God demonstrates giving to us

*(2 Cor 9:15 NIV) Thanks be to God for his  
indescribable gift!*



# The great exchange

*(2 Cor 8:9 NIV) For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes **he became poor**, so that **you through his poverty might become rich**.*

# Can you out give God?

*(Rom 8:32 NIV) He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

# What about tithing?

*(Mal 3:8-12 NIV) "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.*

# 1.) Tithe means 10%

Hebrew word for tithe is ma'aser, (mah-as-ayr) and it means a tenth

# Do it first

*(Prov 3:9-10 NIV) Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*

## **2.) Isn't tithing part of the Old Testament Law**

# Before the Law

*(Gen 14:20 NIV) And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*

*(Gen 28:22 NIV) and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."*

# During the Law

*(Lev 27:30-32 NIV) "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. If a man redeems any of his tithe, he must add a fifth of the value to it. The entire tithe of the herd and flock-- every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's rod--will be holy to the LORD.*



# Jesus' perspective

*(Mat 23:23 NIV) "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a **tenth** of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. **You should have practiced the latter**, without neglecting the former."*

# After the Law

*(1 Cor 9:13-14 NIV) Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.*

# Jesus made OT laws deeper

*(Mat 5:21-22 NIV) "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca, ' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.*

# He takes the Law to the heart

*(Mat 5:28-29 NIV) "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

**3.) Shouldn't we just follow the  
New Testament?**

# 100%

*(Mark 12:42 NIV) But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, **put in everything-all she had to live on.**"*

# 50%

*(Luke 19:8 NIV) But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I **give half of my possessions to the poor,** and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."*

# 100%

*(Acts 4:32-35 NIV) All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared **everything** they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.*



# Test God in this

*(Mal 3:10 NIV) Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me in this,**" says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.*

# CONCLUSION