

Be The Light”

Grace Giving

November 7-8, 2009

“And what a difference between our sin and God's generous gift of forgiveness.”

Romans chapter 5, verse 15.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Romans chapter 5, verse 8 (860)

- ❖ Baptism is a reminder of God’s grace and generosity.
- ❖ God’s generosity to us is beyond comparison.
- ❖ You can never out give God.

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. *2 Corinthians chapter 8, verses 1-2 (886)*

- ❖ Generosity is not dependent upon circumstances.
- ❖ Joy and generosity are inseparable.
- ❖ My troubles should not keep me from seeing all that God is doing to change lives.

For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. *2 Corinthians chapter 8, verses 3-4 (886)*

- ❖ God can do a lot with grateful, willing people who want to be used by him.
- ❖ The needs of others are not burdens but opportunities.
- ❖ Generous people find out where God is working and want to participate in it.

They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do. *2 Corinthians chapter 8, verse 5 (886)*

- ❖ Generosity starts with giving yourself fully to Christ.
- ❖ Being committed to Christ means that I take on his mission to reach the lost... serving others.

So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I **want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving**. I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.

2 Corinthians chapter 8, verses 6-8 (886)

- ❖ Who encourages your giving and generosity?
- ❖ Generosity with God is an act of love.
- ❖ God wants “cheerful” givers not reluctant donors.

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

2 Corinthians chapter 9, verses 7-8 (886)

For Further Study on Giving read the following passages.

Malachi 3:6-12

Matthew 25:14-30

1 Timothy 6:17-19

2 Corinthians 8-9

The following biblical principles should guide my giving.

- ❖ **Generously...** They know that God has given everything to them, and they know that He owns everything they have anyway.
- ❖ **Proportionally...** They try to give as high a percentage of their income as possible, recognizing that as God continues to prosper them, they will in turn be able to give more to God.
- ❖ **Regularly...** As resources flow in, they regularly offer it back to God.
- ❖ **Locally...** Knowing that they claim this church as their spiritual home, they support the ministries from which they derive benefit.
- ❖ **Cheerfully...** Understanding that God looks upon the heart, we should never give reluctantly or begrudgingly, but we should give to God willingly, joyfully, and in worship of Him.
- ❖ **Anonymously...** They do not call attention to themselves when they give and they never expect their offering to produce an advantage in the church.
- ❖ **Expectantly...** Relying on God's promise of provision, they anticipate seeing God use their gift and know that He will work in their life spiritually and financially as they commit their resources to Him.

Next Week- Seizing the Opportunity