



Learning to Give As We Ought

(Part 3)

2 Corinthians 8:10-9:5

1 Chronicles 29:3-18; Romans 15:25-33

Two Whole Chapters on MONEY!!!

- We live in a very materialistic covetous world. We live in times very similar to Jeremiah's days – Jeremiah 6:13; 8:10
- Year after year statistics show that those who call themselves Christians are not very generous in their giving.
- Statistics have shown that the less "Christians" make the more they give. The more they make the less they give!!
- Christ taught that you cannot serve two masters. He was speaking Himself as Lord and "mammon" or "wealth, riches". (Luke 16:13)
- The "love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" – the love of money has been the cause of many "straying from the faith in their greediness." (1 Timothy 6:10)
- Christians are generous NOT greedy! Consider what God says about those who are greedy:
 - (Proverbs 1:19) Greed takes away life of its owners.
 - (Proverbs 15:27) Greed brings trouble to one's family.
 - (Proverbs 21:13) Greed prevents our prayers from being heard.
- Consider what God says about covetousness:
 - (Luke 12:15) Christ, Himself, warns us to "beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."
 - (1 Corinthians 6:9-10) A covetous person will not inherit the kingdom of God – go to heaven! (Ephesians 5:5)
 - (Ephesians 5:3) Covetousness is not "fitting" for saints.

→ (Colossians 3:5) Covetousness is IDOLATRY!

- Our giving is an INDICATOR of our spiritual maturity! The Corinth church was in a “valley of spirituality” and as a result at least one year had gone between their promise to give and Paul’s exhortation in these two chapters!

Christians Give! (2 Corinthians 8 & 9)

- Christians **know** “it is better to give than to receive”. (Acts 20:35)
- GRACE, GOD’s gift, turns “stingy people” into “generous people”.
- Christian know how to “open wide” their hands in giving.
(Deuteronomy 15:7-11)
- God has many promises for those who give! (Psalm 41:1-3; 112:5-9; Proverbs 19:17; Philippians 4:17-20; Hebrews 13:16)
- God has given us examples of giving for us to follow:
 - ❶ Christ giving Himself. (2 Corinthians 8:9; Galatians 2:20)
 - ❷ The widow and her two mites. (Luke 21:1-4)
 - ❸ The Macedonian Churches. (2 Corinthians 8:1-8)
- **NOTE CAREFULLY:** Paul, as moved by the Holy Spirit, never commanded nor set a limit in the giving. Christians give generously!

God’s Pattern for Giving – the Macedonian Example (2 Cor 8:1-6)

- ❶ (v. 1) Christians give because they have received grace. Grace in us can be seen by others. Grace works.
- ❷ (v. 2a) Christians give despite very hard times.
- ❸ (v. 2b) Christians give with an overflowing abundance of joy.
- ❹ (v. 2c) Christians give despite their own extreme poverty.
- ❺ (v. 2d) Christians give generously.
- ❻ (v. 3a) Christians give proportionally.
- ❼ (v. 3b) Christians give sacrificially.
- ❽ (v. 3c) Christians give freely.
- ❾ (v. 4) Christians beg to give.
- ❿ (vv. 5-6) Christians give as an act of worship and in submission to God’s will.

The Macedonian “Secret” (2 Corinthians 8:5)

- ❶ They gave themselves FIRST to the LORD.
 - ❷ They gave themselves to OTHERS.
 - ❸ They considered themselves LAST.
- ★ They had JOY because they put **J**esus first, **O**thers next, and **Y**ourself last! (Luke 14:25-27; 1 John 3:16; 4:11; Mark 9:35)

Christ Is Our Example (2 Corinthians 8:9)

- Paul mixes money with the doctrine of the Incarnation of Jesus!! (John 1:1, 14; 1 Timothy 3:16; Romans 8:3; Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 2:11, 14-17; 1 John 4:2-3; 2 John 7)
- Do you **know** the grace of our **Lord Jesus Christ**?
- He was rich **but for our sake** became poor that we might become rich!
— We are “heirs of God!” (Romans 8:17)
- ★ THIS IS A VERSE THAT WE OUGHT TO MEDITATE ON FREQUENTLY!

Christians Give As God Has Given (2 Corinthians 8:10-15)

- (v. 10) Christians **desire** to give.
 - ☆ Paul knew that it was to the Corinthians’ advantage to give and to give generously! (See 2 Cor 9:6; Luke 6:38)
- (v. 11) Christians do what they say they will do! A Christian’s “YES” is “YES” all the time! (Matt 5:37; James 5:12)
 - ☆ The Corinthians had promised to participate in this offering at least a year earlier (8:6) – now it was time to “put the money where the mouth was”! Willing and doing are **NOT** the same thing!
- (vv. 11-12) Christians give as God has blessed them. Of course, one must see that every cent comes from the LORD. (1 Cor 16:2)
 - ☆ It is arrogance to receive from God and not imitate Him in giving! (Ephesians 5:1-2)
- (vv. 13-15) Christians give knowing that one day they, too, will need help from brothers and sisters. (1 John 3:17; 1 Timothy 6:17-18)
- The Corinthians’ abundance would help supply the needs of saints in Jerusalem. One day, perhaps, the Corinthians would be in need.
- Paul quotes Exodus 16:2-3 – the gathering of manna in the wilderness. No one lacked. Everyone had enough. Those who tried to hoard God’s blessing found out that it just did not work.
- Paul was not teaching communism or any form of socialism. All the giving Paul speaks about is **voluntary** giving.
- Paul never taught that the Church was to support “the lazy” – those who refused to work. See 2 Thessalonians 3:10; Proverbs 13:4; 20:4; 21:25; 24:30-34; 1 Thessalonians 4:11)

Good Stewardship of God’s Money (2 Corinthians 8:16-24)

- (vv. 16-17) Paul, a JEW, sends Titus, a GENTILE.
- Paul was accused of many things, but here he sends, or let’s Titus, a Gentile, go and encourage the Corinthians in giving.

- Corinthians would see that this was not just a JEW looking for money for other JEWS. Titus' earnestness would be clearly seen!
- (vv. 18-23) Stewardship of God's money requires ACCOUNTABILITY.
 - ☆ This requires honesty and faithfulness.
- Those who handle God's money must have qualities that are trustworthy.
- Those who handle money ought to:
 - (v. 18) A passion for the lost.
 - (v. 19) A passion to glorify God.
 - (vv. 20-21) Honesty in the sight of God and men.
 - (v. 22) Be **proved** and **diligent** in their work.
 - (vv. 23-24) Having a good reputation among others.

We Ought to Give As An Example for Others (2 Corinthians 9:1-5)

- (v. 1) This gift was a way for the Corinthians to "minister to the saints".
 - ★ It was a way to pay their DEBT to the Jews!!!!???? (Romans 15:27)
 - ★ Those who feed us spiritually are worthy of being taken care of physically. (Galatians 6:6; Deut 12:19; Matt 10:10; 1 Cor 9:9-14; 1 Timothy 5:17-18)
- (Hebrews 10:24) We are to "**provoke**" each other unto good works.
- (1 Timothy 4:12) We are to be examples, not only in our giving, but is "word, conduct, love, spirit, faith and purity!" (See Titus 2:7)
- (1 Corinthians 11:1) The Holy Spirit moved Paul to give us the principle of living, "Imitate me just as I imitate Christ." (2 Thess 3:7, 9)
- (v. 5) Paul, as moved by the Holy Spirit, was not ashamed to exhort others Christians to give generously and not grudgingly!

What Must We Do

- ① GIVE GENEROUSLY!
- ② Give ourselves to the LORD, then to others, then consider our needs.
- ③ We will be rewarded for our WORKS; NOT our intentions or desires.
- ④ We are in debt to those who feed us spiritually.
- ⑤ We must be examples for others to follow – even in our giving.