

“Cheerful Giver”
2 Corinthians 9:1-15
1/23/22
Message 14

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Cheerful Giver”

• Review

- **We’re in the middle of a study in the book of 2 Corinthians**
 - Paul has written this letter
 - After Receiving word from Titus that the Corinthians had responded to 1 Corinthians
 - Remember - 1 Corinthians was a Corrective Letter –
 - They did not like being corrected – But of course who does...
 - But the Good News – Many did respond and REPENT
 - Paul is very happy to hear that MANY of the Corinthians have Repented
 - Even though Paul still has some Nay Sayers in Corinth
 - Paul Writes this letter to Encourage & Defended his Apostleship
- **Review Chapter 7**
 - “Ye Are In Our Hearts”
 - Paul deals with the struggle of confrontation
 - I love this verse

2 Corinthians 7:3 (NKJV)

3 *I do not say this to condemn; for I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.*

- And then

2 Corinthians 7:8–10 (NKJV)

8 *For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while.*

9 *Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.*

10 *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*

○ **Review Chapter 8 - Brought Up the Subject of Giving!!!**

▪ **Context**

- Remember Paul Started conversation in 1 Corinthians 16
 - Why?
 - The need to collect an Offering for the saints in Jerusalem
- Why the Need?
 - The Christians in Jerusalem were suffering
 - 1st A great famine had devastated the area
 - 2nd Their Failed Attempt at Socialism
- So - Paul asked ALL the Gentile churches to HELP
 - Help for 2 Reasons
 - 1st The REAL NEED

- 2nd Bring UNITY
 - Tension between Jews and Gentiles in the early church
- Now as we will see the Other Churches were doing a great job
 - BUT Corinthian NOT SO MUCH...
- **NOW for the RECORD**
 - This is My Least Favorite TOPIC in ALL the Bible to Talk about
 - Why?!
 - It has Been abused
 - Illustration
 - Church service I Watched a couple of weeks ago
 - Spent several Minutes during the prayer time before the offering exhorting people not to be Hoarders, ect...
 - Had them come up front to give their offerings
 - Or How many TV guys seen begging for money
 - As If God was BROKE
 - Never want to be known for begging for money...
 - **Where God Guides, He Provides**
 - BUT LET me Add
 - A little Convicted after I taught chapter 8

- While I don't like talking about it
- We should never down play the importance of Giving
- **Reminder - Calvary CP Biblical Philosophy**
 - Where God Guides, He provides
 - Make you aware of NEEDS
 - But will never beg for Money
 - I Don't Know WHO gives or HOW much anyone gives
 - I don't ASK – and they know NOT to tell
 - All I see is a total for budget purposes
 - We Have Good Men of God watching over this ministry
 - Vic, Mark, Sam, Wayne,
- **Question – How MUCH should we Give?**
 - Now The Question always comes up HOW much do I GIVE?
 - A Tithe or Something Else?
- **Answer...**
 - Different Opinions
 - There are GOOD pastors on BOTH sides of the Issue
 - **1st Those Who Believe in a Tithe**
 - Say the NT never did away with the Tithe
 - That Jesus confirmed the Tithe when He was talking with the Pharisees

Luke 11:42 (NKJV)

42 *“But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.*

- **2nd Those Who DON'T believe the NT teaches a Tithe**
 - They point to the fact that NO where in the NT does God say give a tithe
 - That what we see in the NT is “Principles to Giving”
- **SO Let's Look at the Scriptures**
 - **The OT teaches a Tithe**
 - It is all over the OT
 - God Instruction to Moses

Leviticus 27:30–33 (NKJV)

30 *And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD.*

31 *If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it.*

32 *And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD.*

33 *He shall not inquire whether it is good or bad, nor shall he exchange it; and if he exchanges it at all, then both it and the one exchanged for it shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.’ ”*

Malachi 3:10 (NKJV)

10 *Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.*

- The tithe simply means “the tenth” or “ten percent.”
- Israel gave ten percent of their flocks, of their grain, and of their fruit to God

- This tithe, the ten percent, was sacred and separated unto God (It is holy to the LORD).

▪ **The New Testament (Principles)**

- Guzik; Gives Simple yet detailed description
- The NT does give many principles for the giving of believers under the New Covenant.
- It does NOT command or emphasize tithing
- It presents giving as a duty for God's people and does not speak negatively of tithing.
- 1st Giving is commanded and is not an option (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- 2nd Giving is to be regular, planned, and proportional. It should never be manipulated (1 Corinthians 16:2)
- 3rd True giving comes as we first give ourselves to the Lord, then we will give our financial resources as we should (2 Corinthians 8:5)
- 4th Giving cannot be commanded of any individual believer at a particular moment, not even by an apostle (2 Corinthians 8:8)
- 5th Giving is a valid test of the sincerity of our love for God and others (2 Corinthians 8:8)
- 6th Giving should be seen as investing money, not as spending money (2 Corinthians 9:6)
- 7th Giving should be not grudging or of necessity (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- 8th God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7)

- 9th Giving must always include giving to the ministries that directly feed us spiritually (1 Corinthians 9:7-13)
- Because the New Testament emphasis is on giving more than tithing, there is no one answer to the question, “How much am I supposed to give?”
- Many people go back to the Old Testament law of the tithe. Since giving is to be proportional (1 Corinthians 16:2), we should be giving some percentage – and ten percent is a good benchmark – a starting place!
- **Thoughts on Money**
 - 1st Money is not sinful in and of itself –
 - The problem is the “love of money” (1 Timothy 6:9-10)
 - 2nd Money can give you a false sense of security
 - (Luke 12:13-21; 1 Timothy 6:17-18)
 - 3rd Money can become more important to you than the treasures of heaven
 - (Matthew 6:19-24)
 - 4th Money can keep you from following Jesus Christ
 - (Matthew 19:16-26)

• **Now to Chapter 9 – We will continue to look at principles of Giving with 6 Important truths**

- PRACTICING What You Said You Would DO vs. 1-5
- PUTTING God’s Promises To The Test v. 6
- PURPOSE In Your Heart v. 7a
- PROPER Motive v. 7b
- PLEASING God v. 7c

- God's PROVISION Of Grace vs. 8-15

PRACTICING What You Said You Would DO vs. 1-5

• First: The willingness of the Corinthian Christians to give vs. 1-2

- **1st Concerning the ministering to the saints v. 1a**

2 Corinthians 9:1 (NKJV)

1 Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous (soo-per`-fluos) for me to write to you;

- The specific ministering to the Saints

- Again - Paul has in mind is the financial support of the Jerusalem saints.

- **2nd It is superfluous (soo-per`-fluos) for me to write to you; for I know your willingness v. 1b**

2 Corinthians 9:1 (NKJV)

1 Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous (soo-per`-fluos) for me to write to you;

- **Superfluous (soo-per`-fluos)**

- Means:

- Unnecessary, NOT required

- **What is Paul's Attitude**

- The basic idea is...

- I don't even need to write this, reminding you about the collection
- Because you are already ready and willing to give.

- Question

- Is he being Sarcastic?
- Or a Friendly way of reminding?
- I don't know – some believe he is being Sarcastic
- What we do know
 - The Corinthian Christians were READY & WILLING to give
 - BUT something happened
 - Some believe that the False teachers in Corinth (that hated Paul) had persuaded the people not to give
 - I can't say for sure –
 - Either way Paul was reminding them to finish what you said you would do
 - DO WHAT YOU SAY YOU WILL DO
- Lesson –
 - Let you YES be YES and your NO be NO
 - This includes EVERYTHING
 - **3rd For I know your willingness v. 2a - c**

2 Corinthians 9:2 (NKJV)

2 for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; **and your zeal has stirred up the majority.**

- They were...
 - WILLING to Give
 - ZEALOUS to Give

- **They had the HEART**

- Just had NO follow through

- **Stirred Up the Majority**

- When the Macedonians heard that the Christians in Corinth had been ready for a year
- Many of them (the Macedonians) were stirred up

- **4th About which I boast of you to the Macedonians v. 2b**

2 Corinthians 9:2 (NKJV)

*2 for I know your willingness, **about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago**; and your zeal has stirred up the majority.*

- **The Northern part of Greece - Was called Macedonia**

- Cities: Philippi, Berea, and Thessalonica.

- **The Southern part of Greece - Was called Achaia**

- The city of Corinth was in the region of Achaia

- **Paul Boasted about the Corinthians to the People of Macedonia**

- We have seen this several times now
- So as Bad (Carnal) as they were – they still had a good side

- **Remember the Passion to Give the Macedonians Had**

- Great Trial of Affliction
- Deep Poverty

- Yet they begged Paul to receive their offering

2 Corinthians 8:3–4 (NKJV)

3 *For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,*

4 *imploping us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.*

• **Second: Paul is sending Titus and the others to pick up the collection vs. 3-5**

- **1st Yet I have sent the brethren v. 3**

2 Corinthians 9:3 (NKJV)

3 *Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, you may be ready;*

- **The brethren are the three mentioned in the previous chapter:**

- Titus and two unnamed Christians
- Men of Character / Brought accountability
- Lesson –

- Learn to be UNKNOWN

- **2nd Lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared v. 4**

2 Corinthians 9:4 (NKJV)

4 *lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting.*

- How embarrassing it would be to the Apostle Paul if, after boasting of the Corinthians, he should bring one of those Macedonians and find that the Corinthians had actually done nothing about the gift for Jerusalem!

○ **3rd Therefore... be READY v. 5**

2 Corinthians 9:5 (NKJV)

5 *Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.*

- Paul wanted the whole business of the collection completed before he arrived
- So that there would be nothing even remotely manipulative in his receiving the collection

PUTTING God's Promises To The Test v. 6

- **First: Our giving should be bountiful, if we would be rewarded bountifully v. 6**

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NKJV)

6 *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

○ **1st The Illustration**

- It is a well-known fact in agriculture that a generous sowing of seed is necessary if there is to be a generous harvest.
 - If he SOWS little = Little He will get
 - If He SOWS Bountiful = a LOT more than he planted
- Bountifully – Greek: Eulogia (“good” + “words”) –
 - Praise; blessing, benefit
 - This is the same word translated “generous” and “generosity” in verse 5.

○ **2nd Lesson**

- **1st – Proper Motive**

- We DON'T give to GET BACK
- That is the Wrong heart
- We give because He has ALREADY blessed our socks off...

- **2nd When We give – We can NEVER out give God**

- Listen to these wonderful promises

Malachi 3:8–10 (NKJV)

8 “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.

9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation.

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

Luke 6:38 (NKJV)

38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured

- NOTE: Warren Wiersbe comments: “Giving is not something we do, but something we are. Giving is a way of life for the Christian who understands the grace of God.”

PURPOSES In Your Heart v. 7a

- **First: Give As He Purpose v. 7a**

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV)

7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

- **1st So let each one give:**

- Giving is for each one.
- Every Christian should be a giver.
- Because of small resources some cannot give much but it is still important that they give, and that they give with the right kind of heart.
- **2nd As he purposes in his own heart:**
 - As he purposes – (Greek Proaireomai)
 - Means: “before” + “to choose”) – to bring forward, bring forth from one’s stores
 - It means to decide beforehand.
 - It’s about making up your mind about what you’re going to give, on your own.
 - It’s about giving what YOU decide to give, not what somebody else tells you to give.
 - It’s about giving of your own freewill.
 - You need to decide ahead of time how much you are going to give.
 - Giving should be motivated by the purposes of our own heart.
 - It should never be coerced or manipulated.
 - We should give because we want to give and because God has put it in our own heart to give.

PROPER Motive v. 7b

• **First: Not Grudgingly v. 7b**

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV)

7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

○ **1st Not Grudgingly –**

- (Greek: Lupe) – sorrow, pain, grief, annoyance, affliction
- Reluctantly, regretfully given with plenty of complaining
- Giving should not be done out of “grief”, or because someone is annoying you to death.
- Giving should not be done because you want the person with the hand out to go away.

● **Second: Or Of Necessity**

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV)

7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

○ Of necessity – (Greek Anagke) –

- Means: Necessity, imposed either by the circumstances, or by law of duty

○ No pressure

- It is NOT wrong for someone to let you know of their needs –
 - Paul is letting the churches now about the needs in Jerusalem.
- BUT he’s being careful about how much pressure or “compulsion” he’s putting on them.
- Be careful about arm twisting.

- **First: For God loves a cheerful giver v. 7c**

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV)

7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; **for God loves a cheerful giver.**

- **1st Cheerful**

- Cheerful – (Greek: Hilaros (“hilarious”))
 - Cheerful, joyous, prompt to do anything
 - It’s the “cheerful” giver that God loves.
 - True giving comes from a happy heart, and it also gives us a happy heart.

- **2nd Does God really need our money?**

- No, the cattle on a thousand hills belong to Him!!!
- But our heart’s attitude is what is important to Him.

God’s PROVISION Of Grace vs. 8-15

- **First: The SUFFICIENCY of God’s grace v. 8**

- **1st God is able to make all grace abound toward you v. 8a**

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV)

8 **And God is able to make all grace abound toward you,** that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

- Grace – charis – grace
 - This is word we talked about last week as the main thread throughout both chapters.

- It is not only the word for “grace”, but it is also the word for “gift”.
- When we learn to “give” or “grace” others
- **2nd Always having all sufficiency in all things v. 8b**

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV)

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

- Sufficiency Greek: Autarkeia
 - May also be translated contentment.
 - This is how the same word is used in 1 Timothy 6:6:
 - Now godliness with contentment is great gain.
 - God gives a special gift to the giving heart:
 - Always... all contentment in all things. That is a lot of all!
- Do you Have contentment in the area of Money in your life?!
 - If you seek to spend everything on yourself – you don’t
 - When you learn the art of surrender – That all of belongs to God – then you will have contentment

• Second: The STRENGTH of God’s grace v. 9

2 Corinthians 9:9 (NKJV)

9 As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.”

- **1st His righteousness remains forever:**

- In the quotation from Psalm 112:9
- Paul is not trying to say that generous giving makes us righteous but gives evidence of a right standing with God.
- There is an eternal kind of blessing (righteousness) that comes with giving to others.
- This means that if we disperse kindness as a sower scatters his seed,
- We will be laying up for ourselves treasures in heaven.
- The results of our kindness will endure forever.

• **Third: The SOWING of God's grace vs. 10-11**

2 Corinthians 9:10 (NKJV)

10 *Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,*

- **1st May He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food:**
 - Paul recognizes God as the great supplier.
 - Whatever we have to give was first given to us by God.
- **2nd Supply and multiply the seed you have sown:**
 - Paul prays that God would supply resources to the Corinthian Christians so that they may give, and at the same time multiply what they give.
- **3rd Increase the fruits of your righteousness:**
 - The giving of the Corinthian Christians (represented by the seed you have sown) will give a harvest, the fruits of your righteousness.

- Paul prays that God would increase these fruits that grow from their giving.

2 Corinthians 9:11 (NKJV)

11 *while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.*

○ **1st While you are enriched in everything:**

- Paul prayed that the Corinthian Christians would be enriched by their giving, both materially and spiritually.

○ **2nd For all liberality:**

- This is the reason why the Corinthian Christians should be enriched in everything.
- Not for their own riches or lavish lifestyles but for all liberality – that is, for all generous giving.

○ **3rd Which causes thanksgiving through us to God:**

- After all the giving is done, and all liberality is shown by the Corinthian Christians, the thanksgiving is directed to God.

• **Fourth: The SERVICE & SCOPE of God's grace vs. 12-13**

2 Corinthians 9:12–13 (NKJV)

12 *For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,*

13 *while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men,*

○ **1st Not only supplies the needs of the saints:**

- First, on the most practical level, the giving of the Corinthian Christians will supply the needs of the saints. This is a good thing in and of itself, but their giving did far more than that.

○ **2nd Many thanksgivings to God:**

- Secondly, their gifts also caused thanksgiving to God
- They were giving more than money for food; they were giving people a reason to thank God.
- **3rd The obedience of your confession:**
 - Third, the giving of the Corinthian Christians was evidence of God's work in them.

• **Sixth: The SUPPLICATION of God's grace v. 14**

2 Corinthians 9:14 (NKJV)

14 and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.

- **And by their prayer for you:**
 - The fourth benefit from the gift of the Corinthian Christians was that it would prompt the Jerusalem Christians to pray for them.
 - Paul expected that the Jerusalem Christians would pray for the Corinthian Christians.
 - This is something that we can do when others give to us, and when we need their gifts.
 - We can pray for them.

• **Seventh: The SALVATION of God's grace v. 15**

2 Corinthians 9:15 (NKJV)

15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

- **1st What is His Indescribable Gift?**
 - Salvation is given to us in Jesus Christ.
 - Paul is REMINDING us of the GREATEST GIVER

John 3:16 (NKJV)

16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

- Jesus is a gift and salvation is a gift.
- **2nd Thanks be to God:**
 - This means God's indescribable gift should fill us with gratitude.

Closing

• Paul's guidelines for giving (2 Cor. 9:6-7)

2 Corinthians 9:6–8 (NKJV)

6 *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

7 *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

8 *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.*

- NOW overlay them on God's gift to us.
 - 1st God's gift was purposeful
 - He decided beforehand that He would give His Son.
 - 2nd God's gift was griefless
 - God didn't send His Son because we were causing Him so much grief.
 - He did it because He loved us.
 - 3rd God gave without pressure
 - God indeed gave because He saw our great need, not because we demanded it.

- 4th God gave cheerfully
 - God was glad to give everything for us.