

Series: Words of Council and Correction

GOD LOVETH A CHEERFUL GIVER

2 CORINTHIANS 9

Text: 2 Corinthians 9:7

2 Corinthians 9:7

⁷Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Introduction:

There is no giving that is as glorious as gracious, cheerful giving. In this passage we'll see how such giving takes place when Paul reminds the church at Corinth that they had made a commitment nearly a year earlier, and had not followed through with it.

In a very tactful, but also in a very firm way he is letting them know that much is at stake if they failed to be responsible to their word. It would affect the reputation of the church, of Paul, and of Christ.

Paul tells the church that he has three men coming to collect the gift, and then in effect tells them that there is no giving like biblical giving.

We'll see three characteristics of the glorious giver:

1. THE GLORIOUS GIVER IS SENSITIVE TO THE NEED (VS. 1-5)

2 Corinthians 9:1-5

¹ For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you: ² For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many. ³ Yet have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this behalf; that, as I said, ye may be ready: ⁴ Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting. ⁵ Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.

Paul wants to do right, and he wants the church at Corinth to do right. Paul is not questioning their willingness to do right; he just wants to make sure that they do not procrastinate doing what they had promised. The church at Jerusalem had needs and needed their needs met in a timely manner.

A Christians who is going to do right in their giving is a sensitive giver

A. Sensitive with Purpose (vs.1) – “Ministering to the saints”

The purpose that Paul had was to help the Church of Jerusalem. He was very sensitive to their needs.

1 John 3:17

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

We shouldn't be guilty of having a hard heart against a believer in need.

Now understand that this is a principle, and that there are other principles in the word of God to be considered when helping others.

When it is obvious that someone is under the chastening hand of God, it is inappropriate to offset what God is doing by helping them undo what God might be doing.

Being sensitive means that you will be sensitive to God's word and leading first

B. Sensitive without Procrastination (vs. 3) – “Find ye ready”

Paul wanted the church at Corinth to have more than good intentions. Someone said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Serving God should have the same urgency as the verse that reminds us, "Today is the day of salvation".

The devil's today is tomorrow.

We have a wonderful opportunity to serve God today, with no promise of tomorrow.

As we give and support the work of this local church and the ministries that God has led us to do and the missionaries that we support, we need to do it now... and keep on giving until the Lord comes, or until it is our time to go.

So many think that anything that they do for the Lord will only be rewarded in Heaven, and that there are no earthly enjoyed benefits, however that's just not true. Yes there will be reward in Heaven but there benefits to be enjoyed here on this earth now.

Someone once said:

"Not only in heaven does God reward the well- doing of the godly, but in this world as well."

C. Sensitive by Being Prepared (vs. 4-5) – “That the same might be ready”

2 Corinthians 9:4-5

⁴Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting. ⁵Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.

In the case of what Paul is referring to in our text, he is exhorting the church to be ready for those collecting the money, and the gifts. He told them that if they were not prepared, that there would be a reason for their being ashamed for boasting of being ready when they actually were not.

2. THE GLORIOUS GIVER WILL SHARE OR SOW TO MEET THE NEED (VS. 6-9)

When a farmer releases from his hand the precious seed, he does so with great anticipation of a bumper crop. For every one seed, which he drops, he expects much more in return. He understands in his humble way the law of sowing and reaping.

When it comes to giving “God never blesses squeezed hand as He does the open hand”

Note:

A. The Law of Sowing (vs. 6)

2 Corinthians 9:6

⁶ But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Galatians 6:7

⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Note these principles:

- The principles of Investment – you reap only as you sow
- The principle of Identity – you reap what you sow
- The principle of Increase – you reap more than you sow
- The principle of Interval – you reap after you sow

Note not only the law of sowing but also:

B. The Love of Sowing (vs. 7)

2 Corinthians 9:7

⁷Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Giving involves a Godly love. God loves a cheerful giver because He loves giving. Giving should never be done without one preparing his heart so that he can give in a loving way. When one gives this way he will find a joy that cannot be described.

C. The Latitude of Sowing (vs. 8-9)

2 Corinthians 9:8-9

⁸And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: ⁹(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

God determines the latitude of our giving.

Every giving commitment should take in consideration that God is the supplier, because “God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:”

If every time that you give you have calculated it, and you feel that you are able to do it.

Why not give and give when you are not able to calculate how you are going to do it?

Why not get alone with God, and find out what God wants you to do?

Have you ever given in such a way that you appear to be taking a risk, but then you are impressed by God that that is exactly what you should do I have found my greatest giving joy when I gave this way, believing that God will supply.

3. THE GLORIOUS GIVER WILL BE SUPPLIED FOR THE NEED (vs.10-15)

God is the supplier of our needs, so that we can meet the needs of others.

Paul is showing that many good things are happening when you are cheerful and not fearful in your giving.

He is showing that many good things are happening when you are glad, and not sad or mad in your giving.

A. The Giver's needs Will Be Supplied by the Generosity of God (vs.10-12)

2 Corinthians 9:10-12

¹⁰ Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) ¹¹ Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. ¹² For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

The glorious giver has absolutely no reason to mistrust the goodness of God. God has shown His goodness to all in every way. The Book of Romans tells us that the goodness of God leadeth men to repentance. And it is the goodness of God that allows the seed to go to the sower as verse 10 tells us, “Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness”.

B. The Giver’s Need Will Be Supplied by the Grace of God (vs. 13-15)

2 Corinthians 9:13-15

¹³ Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; ¹⁴ And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. ¹⁵ Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

Whether we deserve it or not, God will continue to be our strength and our portion because of His wonderful Amazing Grace. As we give, He will continue to give through us, and for us.

Close:

Just knowing that God loves a cheerful giver should be enough to inspire and challenge us to give, as we ought to.