

Sermon Title:

“Giving Generously”

(Part 1)

Sermon Text:

II Corinthians 8 & 9

- What is Christian stewardship?
- ***There are 5 reasons why it’s important that we talk about this subject:***
 - 1) ***Because By Nature We’re All Forgetful People*** (II Peter 1:12-15)
 - 2) ***Because There Is Great Spiritual Value In Doing So***
 - 3) ***Because What’s Important To God, Ought To Be Important To Us***
 - 4) ***Because Our Money and Our Hearts Are Always Intimately Connected*** (Matthew 6:21)
 - 5) ***Because Our Giving Demonstrates Both Our Faith In God And Our Dependence Upon God***
- **In II Corinthians 8-9 three churches that are mentioned: 1) The Jerusalem Church 2) The Corinthian Church 3) The Macedonian Churches**
- ***What was Paul’s goal in these 2 chapters?***

I. Giving Generously Is Always Rooted In The Grace Of God (8:1a)

- **“Grace”** is ‘God’s unmerited favor,’ it is His incredibly kind treatment of people who simply don’t deserve it.
- Giving generously is always initiated by, motivated by, and continued by grace!
- **Matthew 10:8**
- **Colossians 1:16-17; Ephesians 2:1-10**

II. Generous Giving Is Often Motivated By The Example Of Others (8:1b-4)

- ***The Macedonian believers put their wallets where their mouths were!***
- When you step up and give generously, it actually motivates others to do the same.

Giving Generously is at its core a life message!

- The opposite of generous giving is stingy giving, and it not only steals joy from our hearts, but it also robs us of a story that could create great hope in someone else’s heart!

III. Generous Giving Is Inseparably Linked To The Lordship Of Christ (8:5)

- The name “**Lord**” (*kurios*) literally means “**master; Lord, sovereign One.**”
- Generous giving is an expression of our **overall commitment** to the ownership and Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives.
- *Psalm 24:1; Haggai 2:8; Deuteronomy 8:18; I Corinthians 6:19-20*

“One of the clearest examples of your submission to the Lordship of Christ is what you do with our money.”

IV. Generous Giving Is An Essential Part Of Our Spiritual Development (8:7)

- *Generous giving was simply another indicator of what it means to be spiritually **mature.***
- A failure to give generously is, at its very root, a **spiritual immaturity** problem!
- *Colossians 3:5*
- How you handle God’s money says more than you even know about the **real spiritual condition** of your heart!

V. Generous Giving Is A Irrefutable Proof Of The Genuineness Of Our Love For The Lord (8:8)

- *Love for the Lord is our **motivation** for giving, and our giving to the Lord proves that our love is real.*
- What we do with our money always reveals the **true affection** of our hearts
- *John 3:17-18; James 2:15-17*

Conclusion:

God wants us to be so filled with a **vision** for **eternity** that we would never dream of **not investing** our treasure, time, and talents where they will matter the most!