

Sermon

The Church & Giving
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Jeff Jackson

“Living For the One Who Branded Us...Jesus”

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:

“He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

I. Giving is an Attitude of Heart (6-7)

Notes: _____

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

¹⁰ Because of God’s grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

¹² Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. ¹³ But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. ¹⁴ If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

Henry Drummond

The most obvious lesson in Christ's teaching is that there is no happiness in having or getting anything, but only in giving.

Author Unknown

The desire of love is to give. The desire of lust is to take.

II. Giving is a Decision of Dependence on God (7-10)

Notes: _____

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

C.S. Lewis

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.

Corrie Ten Boom

The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation.

III. Giving is an Act of Worship (11-15)

Notes: _____

Romans 12:1

I plead with you to *give* your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. *This is truly the way to worship him.*

Francis of Assisi

For it is in giving that we receive.

F. Giving is to be a private matter not of public boast so that it can be an act of worship before the Lord.

Matthew 6:1-4

“Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. ² When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. ³ But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴ Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

CONCLUSION:

I end today's talk with the question: What are you giving? Each person should decide in his or her own heart. When we give we reveal God's spirit in our lives that others may see Christ in us and come to Him for His special gift of Grace.

C.S. Lewis

Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours.

Acts 20:35

The Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Jim Elliot

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

Matthew 6:19-21

"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.