



"THE POINT OF ALL THIS"
...generosity points to the gospel.
September 10, 2023

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

2 Corinthians Series: Paul's defense of his ministry was rooted in God's **perfect power** working through human **weaknesses**. (2 Cor 12:9)

2 Corinthians 8 and 9: After his theological **digression** (2:14-7:4), and his overflowing of joy and **comfort** from Titus' arrival (7:5-16), Paul urged the Corinthians to **continue** in their obedience in regards to **generosity** and **financial giving**. He considered generosity to be an **act of grace**.

8/13 (8:1-7) Paul urged the Corinthians toward excellence in giving just as the **Macedonian churches** had obeyed the grace of God. .

8/20 (8:8-15) Paul explained how financial generosity reveals the **gospel** and the motive of love. (Equality in giving; **everyone** giving something.)

8/27 (8:16-24) Earnest **administration** over the grace of giving was essential. (Gospel-centered credentials for administration.)

9/3 (9:1-5) Grace causes the heart to be **willing** to obey God's commands. Grace-giving is an act of willing generosity – **not greed**.

Text: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 Paul revealed "the point of the matter" (the matter of "giving as a gift and not an exaction, v.5).

1. God works in human weakness to enable cheerful and bountiful "good works" that produce a harvest of righteousness.
2. The principle of sowing and reaping illustrated that grace-fueled generosity was only limited by a person's unwillingness to give.
3. God supplies the means of one's obedience. God works to in a man's heart to make him willing to give generously. (Phil 2:13)

HFC Thesis: We must exercise faith in the working of God's grace so that our financial giving is an outworking of our relationship with Jesus Christ (vv. 12-15) which ultimately results in thanksgiving to God for His generosity to us in Jesus Christ. Giving is the gospel.

WHAT IS THE POINT OF GRACE-FUELED GIVING? 3 ASPECTS

I. THE POINT: TO REVEAL A GRACE-TRANSFORMED HEART.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

- A. Paul's call to "excel in the grace of giving," (2 Cor 8:7; 9:5) was to cultivate the kind of **willing generosity** that could only be attributed to God's work in the human heart. (Enabled obedience)
- B. The agricultural metaphor of "**sowing and reaping**" was used to examine compare giving to a farmer's **motives** for managing seed. (We will see that the "**seed**" in Paul's metaphor was **limitlessly supplied** by God to those who would "sow" like God. 9:14-15.)

II. THE POINT: TO SUPPLY AN ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S WORKS.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

- A. "**God is able:**" God chooses to supply **cheerful givers** with more than enough **grace** for every occasion of **obedient giving**.
 1. "Having all sufficiency:" The gift is acceptable is the readiness is there. (2 Cor 8:12) The Corinthian's resources were sufficient.
 2. "Good works:" not the accumulation of monetary wealth but the **outflowing** of grace in every opportunity. ("Togethred-giving")
- B. Paul used **Psalm 112:2** to support the truth that **God was able** to do all these things. The Psalmist declared that **God's generosity** to the **poor** was **inexhaustible**. (Like the Corinthian's grace-fueled generosity to the poor in Jerusalem and every opportunity!)
- C. Grace-fueled generosity will **endure** eternally. (Phil 4:17, 1 Cor 3:14)

Caution: The secular church relates these truths to a guaranteed increased **physical** prosperity in terms of wealth. The reward for generosity is the ability to continue to minister to others. Giving, in order to reap a financial gain is not a righteous motive and earns nothing.

III. THE POINT: TO INCREASE A HARVEST OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

- A. Paul alluded to two OT Scriptures: **Isaiah 55:10** which praised God as the Divine Supplier of both the seed and the sustenance (bread). **Hosea 10:12** which promised a **harvest of blessing** for those who sow righteousness. **What are the blessings of righteousness?**
- B. Paul assured the Corinthians that God would not ignore their generosity, but would enlarge the **rewards** of their **righteousness**.
- C. "**You will be enriched:**" (1 Cor 1:4-8) The **Holy Spirit** enriches the church with gifts that **manifest** the righteousness of Christ. If the Corinthians gave generously, they could expect a dramatic enrichment of their lives in the **riches of the grace of God**.
- D. Paul assured the Corinthians that their generosity would produce **thanksgiving to God** (eternal reward).

Questions/Implications:

1. How does our thinking about grace-fueled **giving** align with these Scriptures? What is God saying to you about generosity and giving?
2. **God gives to you so that you can give** – cheerfully. Why would a Christian be reluctant to give away what God has given to them when He tells them that He will continue to supply their generosity?
3. **The righteousness of Christ is inexhaustible!** Give Christ to others generously and cheerfully.