

A GIFT TOO WONDERFUL FOR WORDS

“Christmas: When God Came Downstairs with a Baby in His Arms”

Study Number Six – God the Greatest Giver – 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

In Mark 10, the Lord Jesus is confronted by James and John, asking to sit upon the right and the left in the kingdom. And Jesus says of Himself:

Mark 10:45

I came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give my life a ransom for many.

Since Christmas is a time of giving, there’s no greater passage for us to look at than one which describes the greatest giver of all—God Himself.

In 2 Corinthians 9, we’re going to pick up at verse 6 and read down to verse 15. Now this is a homemade translation of the Greek text and it’s a little different from others, but not much.

v. 6 Now this I am saying: “He who is sowing sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who is sowing bountifully shall also reap bountifully.

v. 7 Let each one give just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God is loving a cheerful giver.

v. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, in order that having always enough of everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

v. 9 even as it stands written: “He scattered abroad, he gave to those who are poor, his righteousness is abiding forever.”

v. 10 Now he who is supplying seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

v. 11 you being enriched in everything for all generosity, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

v. 12 Because the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but also is overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

v. 13 Because of the approved character of your service they are glorifying God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all.

v. 14 While they also, with petitions on your behalf, are longing for you because of the extraordinary grace of God in you.

v. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

What we want us to do is to clothe this passage with a context that will help us understand what he's saying and then primarily focus on the fifteenth verse, which is an outburst of praise to the greatest giver of all!

The context of the passage is this, there has been an economic crisis in the city of Jerusalem. Many of the Christians in that area are destitute. They're not having enough food, they're not having places to live. Many of them have been persecuted for their faith and thrown out of their homes.

It's a difficult time for them. Paul is a missionary who went to many, many different places. One of those places was the city of Corinth in the land of Greece. To these Gentile believers, he told about the need in Jerusalem. And these people were willing to sacrificially give.

In his letter to them, the Corinthian letter, in chapter 8 commends the people in Macedonia who gave themselves, first to the Lord, and then they pleaded with Paul to have the privilege of giving to help. And they were just almost as destitute as the saints to whom they were giving in the city of Jerusalem.

Following this, the apostle gives the illustration of the richest one who became poor—and that is Jesus Christ.

We read:

2 Corinthians 8:9

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich.

Then as he gets into chapter 9, he is finishing his discourse on giving. And we are going to take from verse 6 down to the end of this exposition and focus on some things that are really important, when it comes to the matter of giving.

The hope is this will free some of you today from teaching which is variant from that of the New Testament. That it will excite you about what God would do in our heart and in our life in relationship to stewardship.

There are FIVE THINGS:

1. The PRINCIPLE of giving is in verses 6-8.
2. The PROMISE of giving in verses 9 and 10.
3. The PROVISION of giving, verses 11-13.

4. The POTENTIAL for giving in verse 14, and
5. The glorious PICTURE of it all in verse 15.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is founded on the principle of giving. And it is in the spirit of giving. There is no buying and selling in the Gospel. There is a payment under the Law, but certainly not in grace.

God gives us everything. God gives us Jesus. God gives us eternal life. God gives us grace and glory. God gives everything! And if we truly are a New Testament believer, our giving is giving as a result of a heart that has been touched by the grace of God and we count it a privilege to give and to share.

Freely we have received, freely we give.

Paul says the love of Christ constrains us. We're walled in. We must act!

Now when a man's heart has been touched by love, there is nothing that will keep that person from sacrificing all of his interests, because of the love which he has. It is a commitment of giving in response to a God of grace and all that He has done for us. Christmas is giving so we need to think about this as we look at these verses.

Now first of all, we see the PRINCIPLE OF GIVING in those first three verses:

the PRINCIPLES in verse 6,
the COMMAND is in verse 7, and
God's RESPONSE is in verse 8.

First of all, giving is very productive—verse 6.

I. THE PRINCIPLE OF GIVING—verses 6-8

v. 6 Now this I am saying: “He who is sowing sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who is sowing bountifully shall also reap bountifully.

“Now this I am saying: ‘He who is sowing sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who is sowing bountifully shall also reap bountifully.’”

The scene of our passage opens in the garden. Giving is sowing. Giving is not charity. Giving is not a contribution. Giving is an investment. We're putting something in and we're going to get something out.

We are reminded of what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mountain in Matthew 6:

Matthew 6:19-20

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and

rust can corrupt and thieves break through and steal, but lay up for yourself treasures in heaven.

God looks on the giving heart as one who is sowing seed. And you can either sow a little and reap a little, or you can sow a lot and reap a lot.

The scripture is filled with references to sowing. For instance, Jesus said, “Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone.” (see John 12:24)

“His word as it is watered will prosper.” (see Isaiah 55:10-11)

In Matthew 13 He says, “The sower went forth to sow.” (see Matthew 13:1-9)

In John 4 He tells His disciples, “Say not ye there are yet four months and then comes harvest, behold I say unto you, ‘Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, they’re white already. There are those who are sowing and there are those who are reaping.’” (see John 4:35-38)

In Galatians 6 He says, “God is not laughed at, because what a man sows, that shall he also reap. And let us not lose heart in doing good for in due time, we shall reap if we do not grow weary.” (see Galatians 6:7-9)

Oftentimes we look at giving in a totally wrong perspective. In God’s sight the giving heart is a heart that is making an investment. And we have a choice.

Please don't ever let people cry out with the words of Jeremiah 8:20: "The summer is ended, the harvest is past, and we are not saved" by our own personal neglect.

Giving then is not a contribution, but an investment.

David in Psalm 126 describes that in verses 5 and 6: "Sow in tears, you shall reap in joy."

Psalm 126:6

He that goeth forth and weep,
bearing precious seed,
shall doubtless come again with rejoicing,
bringing his sheaves with him.

Now this is going to be strange to some of you who have been brought up on the tithe and the pledge card. We have lived under the bondage of that all of our years and it has brought about a negative feeling inside. To read that really the gospel of the grace of God has nothing to do with the tithe and the pledge card.

Notice verse 7 is the COMMAND.

The PRINCIPLE—we can sow a little or we can sow a lot. That's our choice as a believer. How much seed we're going to put in the ground.

In light of that, this is the COMMAND—verse 7. Giving is personal.

v. 7 Let each one give just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God is loving a cheerful giver.

“Let each one give just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God is loving a cheerful giver.”

Now where do we see the tithe then?

The tithe is nowhere in the New Testament except Jesus speaks of it in a derogatory fashion in His ministry.

The Apostle Paul is a Jew, he could have instituted it if he felt that it needed to be during his ministry. And he speaks nothing of it. This is his writing.

There’s one historical reference to it in the book of Hebrews 7, where Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek. All back from the Old Testament.

Since the tithe is not there, what is our responsibility with a giving heart to a giving God? He says:

“Let each one give as he has purposed in his heart;”

We have to decide whether we’re going to sow a little or sow a

lot. And that's our business, between us and the Lord, and has nothing to do with anybody else.

When we really get right down to it, the gospel of the grace of God is pretty free and pretty exciting. Remember the Do's and the Don'ts back there in Romans 14?

We don't dance, we don't smoke, we don't drink, and we don't go with the girls that do. And we have our prescribed, legalistic standards for spirituality.

And we ran into that verse in Romans 14 that said, "Let each man be fully persuaded in his own mind." (ref. Romans 14:5) That's between each of us and the Lord, what we permit in our life and what we don't permit, because we're sowing and reaping.

The same principle is true in giving as it is in our conduct. We're free to do what we want! But there are some restraints that regard our relationship to our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ so we're fully persuaded in our own mind what we're going to do.

When it comes to giving, since it is sowing, we can choose what kind of harvest of righteousness we want. Now he says, the COMMAND:

"give as you have purposed in your heart."

We figure out what we want and then we give. But

NEGATIVELY he says TWO THINGS:

1. “not grudgingly or”
2. “under compulsion.”

What does it mean “grudgingly?”

“Here, I don’t want to give this but I got to!”

Listen, we consider what God has done for us and if He hasn’t done anything for us, then don’t give Him a dime. He doesn’t want our money!

God doesn’t need it! We need to give it. And giving just doesn’t involve money.

We can learn from this verse that God is more interested in our attitude than the amount. It’s what motivates us, “not grudgingly” or of necessity. That means everybody else is going to know what we gave and we’ll be embarrassed if they know about it, so we better be careful.

But “God loves a cheerful giver.”

Robert Lewis Stevenson was loved much by his servants. And one of his faithful servants always brought him tea and awakened him early in the morning. One time that servant was off for a couple of weeks and another servant took his place and he loved Robert Lewis Stevenson just as much.

So his first morning on duty he brought Robert Lewis Stevenson a cup of tea and an omelet. The response of Stevenson was, “Great is your forethought!” And the response of the servant was, “No master, great is my love!”
(source unknown)

When God’s love has been produced in the heart of a child of God who has experienced His grace, he just wants to give! And give and give and give. That’s God’s love.

These words here, “God loves a cheerful,” know what that word is? That’s the English word “hilarious.” That’s the word for “God loves a happy, hilarious, joyful, abundant, excited giver!” One thrilled with the anticipation of it.

We think of the angels that night when they say, “I bring you good tidings of great joy! A gift has been given!” (ref. Luke 2:10)

Jesus, it is said of Him, in Hebrews, “Who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross.” (ref. Hebrews 12:2)

Song of Solomon 2:4: “He brought me to his banquet hall and his banner over me is love.”

It is joy! It’s excitement!

Ananias and Sapphira thought this giving business was really exciting. They decided to sell a little and lie to the Holy Spirit

about what they sold and kept back some for themselves. They both bit the bullet.

We don't lie to the Holy Spirit and get away with it. God wants a giving heart without any restrictions.

How do we give? We give of ourselves when we give our time. That's how we're servants. We're free with our time in serving others.

We can give of our talents and our abilities.

It's giving of our money, sure. That's an easy way out. Give it and it's all over with. There's no responsibility with that.

There's the teaching of God's Word.

And our giving is to be done cheerfully, light-hearted, joyful and happy. That's what He loves!

Giving is PRODUCTIVE. We can sow a little and reap a little, or we can sow a lot and reap a lot.

Giving is PERSONAL. We have to decide what kind of crop we want, what kind of garden we're going to put in.

Notice at verse 8, God's going to prosper it.

v. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, in order that having always enough of everything, you

may have an abundance for every good deed;

“And God is able to make all grace”—notice that’s SINGULAR because it’s all wrapped up in a Person, the Lord Jesus.

“God is able to make all grace abound to you,”

Why? PURPOSE:

“in order that having always enough of everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;”

In Genesis 39 it is described of Joseph that the Lord blessed everything he did, and prospered everything that came into his hand. The Lord caused it to prosper.

When we put it in the ground, God brings a miracle about and He prospers it. The seed grows up and there is much harvest, fruit, from the sowing of the seed.

God loves a cheerful giver and He will “make grace abound” so that there will be a wonderful, abundant harvest.

The Lord Jesus spoke of that in the gospel of Luke when He said, “As you’re faithful to give, it will be prospered, pressed down, shaken together, overflowing.” (ref. Luke 6:38)

Someone received a letter from a national television program trying to raise money. And they had got ahold of this principle, and this is what the letter said:

You can't out-give God. We have it figured out. Therefore if you and everybody else who hears our program will send us \$67 we'll have all the money we need and God will give it back to you five times over.

Well, this person wrote back the following letter:

I believe that! I believe you can't out-give God. But let's say you give me the \$67 and God will give it back to you five times over then you'll get the bigger amount!
(source unknown)

For some reason they took him off the mailing list.

It never was loving that emptied a heart or giving that emptied a purse.
(source unknown)

In John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* we read:

A man there was though some did count him mad,
the more he cast away, the more he had.
(source unknown)

We storm the secret place, God is able to make grace abound so that we'll have plenty to give and plenty left over to take care of our needs.

Now that's what God is able to do in verse 8. We're going to

see what God will do in verse 10 in just a minute.

What's the principle of giving?

It's productive, it's sowing, it's an investment. It's personal. We're persuaded in our own minds about this. It will prosper—God is able.

Now the Apostle Paul, a lot of times when he is going to produce an argument for what he's going to say, will bring in the heavy artillery. And that's what he does. He's going to give us a verse of scripture now to show, with regard to giving, the promise from the scripture in verse 9 and then what God promises in verse 10.

II. THE PROMISE OF GIVING—verses 9-10

v. 9 even as it stands written: “He scattered abroad, he gave to those who are poor, his righteousness is abiding forever.”

“even as it stands written: ‘He scattered abroad, he gave to those who are poor, his righteousness is abiding forever.’”

There's our scriptural illustration from Psalm 112.

And then what does God say?

v. 10 Now he who is supplying seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed

for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

“Now he who is supplying seed to the sower and bread for food”—notice the wills—“will supply and will multiply your seed for sowing and will increase the harvest of your righteousness;”

This is what God’s going to do. He “will supply,” He “will multiply,” and He “will increase.” How does God do that?

We don’t know! But He says He will!

How can He can take five loaves and a couple of fish that a little guy’s got and feed 5,000 people and give them twelve basketfuls left over? We don’t know, but He’s God!

Someone asked Donald Grey Barnhouse, “How do you explain God taking care of two million people for 40 years in the wilderness? What’s your explanation?”

Barnhouse stood before them, “One word sir—God!”
(source unknown)

It’s altogether fitting—God never makes a mistake the way He orders our lives.

Now look at what giving does in verses 11-13. It does something for the giver, it does something for the receiver, and it does something for God. That’s why He delights in it.

III. THE PROVISION OF GIVING—verses 11-13

v. 11 you being enriched in everything for all generosity, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

“you being enriched in everything for all generosity, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.”

We’re going to be enriched by this. We’ll feel awfully good about it and it’s going to be a lot of thanksgiving to God for what we’ve done in our giving.

What happens to the receivers?

v. 12 Because the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but also is overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

“Because the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints,”

Those poor people down there, because they gave, are having their needs met.

“but also again it is overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.”

They’re thanking God for them and what they did!

What does God get out of this?

v. 13 Because of the approved character of your service they are glorifying God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all.

“Because of the approved character of your service they are glorifying God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ,”

They see you obedient as givers!

“and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all.”

God is glorified!

Because they give, because they're obedient, and because of their generosity.

Here's what can happen when we're faithful.

IV. THE POTENTIAL OF GIVING—verse 14

v. 14 While they also, with petitions on your behalf, are longing for you because of the extraordinary grace of God in you.

“While they also, with petitions on your behalf, are longing for

you because of the extraordinary grace of God in you.”

These people who are Jews cannot believe that Gentiles are giving to support them, as brothers in God’s family. And they don’t even know them! They’re way up there in Europe!

They’re saying, “These people really are special!” And they begin to pray for them.

And they’re petitioning God to meet their needs up there, like they’ve met theirs down here! And they’ve got a longing desire to make a trip up there and see those people and be with them, because of what the grace of God has done.

Now thankfully we’ve got missionaries in the act. We need to realize that what we do here affects the world when we’ve got a vision. And we’re going to meet people in glory from seeds we’ve sown!

May God enlarge our vision to realize that missionaries in turn are going to pray for us! Petition God to come and see us because we’re brothers in the same family.

V. THE PICTURE OF GIVING—verse 15

v. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

Are we givers? God is a giver too? And we’ll never out give

Him.

His Son is like His Father. He's a great giver too.

The PRINCIPLE of giving—verses 6-8.

The PROMISE of giving—verses 9 and 10.

The PROVISION of giving—verses 11-13.

The POTENTIAL for giving—verse 14, and now

The PICTURE—verse 15.

Yes indeed, the gift of God was a giver too.

Jesus said, “I came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.”
(ref. Matthew 20:28)

And to “give His life a ransom for many.” (see Mark 10:45)

William R. Newell put it in his hymn:

Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan
Oh, the grace that brought it down to man
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span
At Calvary.
(source unknown)

This word is so interesting. We can translate it in various

ways.

In the old King James it said, “Thanks be to God for”—
what?—“His unspeakable gift!”

In some of our texts it’s probably “indescribable.” There are
various ways of translating it. It’s only to tell us that we can’t
say it.

The apostle, when he comes to try to describe this gift, coins a
word that’s only used here in the New Testament. Isn’t that
interesting?

He’s saying, “I don’t know how to say it.”

There are two times in our life when we’re speechless. The
first is when we experience grief. The second is when we are
overwhelmed with gratitude.

Paul prays that the Ephesians might have their capacities
enlarged so they could comprehend the height, the depth, the
width and the breadth of the love of God in Christ Jesus!

Romans 11:33

Oh, the depths of the riches both of the wisdom and the
knowledge of God;

We’re speechless in time of grief, so with Job we would say,
“The Lord hath given, the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be

the name of the Lord.” (ref. Job 1:21)

It’s interesting, as soon as he makes that statement, we read:

Job 1:22

Through all of this, Job did not sin, nor did he blame God.

He couldn’t say anything.

In Romans 8 words seem to be so insignificant and the Spirit helps us with groanings that cannot be uttered at this time when life overwhelms us. (see Romans 8:26)

Mary takes the very precious ointment and begins to anoint the feet of Jesus, wipes them with her hair. She doesn’t say anything. She just fills the room with the fragrance of her offering. She’s overwhelmed. She knows that He’s soon going to be gone. (see John 12:3)

John, as he sees the book that needs to be opened in Revelation 5, weeps because there’s no one who is found to open it. As heaven is silent, and John is in tears, the elder comes forth and says, “Stop your weeping! The lion of the tribe of Judah is here and He will open the book!” (see Revelation 5:3-5)

Yes, there are times in our loneliness and grief, when words fail to come and all we can experience is eyes filled with tears—no words.

It is the second expression of this speechlessness that is described in this passage. This is a time of overwhelming gratitude. Words seem to be meaningless in light of the value of the gift!

“Thanks be to God!”

What is it the writer says?

“This is joy unspeakable and full of glory!” (ref. 1 Peter 1:8)

I can’t talk about it, it’s so wonderful!

One thing this is going to get us to do is get us to forget about giving grudgingly or necessity.

Why did God create us in the beginning? He created us because He was lonely, because He wanted a relationship.

“I need someone to love! An inanimate world is impossible of response! I want someone to love Me in return.”

Because our parents didn’t do such a good job in the garden, God finds himself picking up the pieces of broken humanity. And now we’ve got to go with Plan B. Love has got to give all that’s necessary to restore this relationship, to bind the broken hearts, to deal with the problem of sin to make it all possible to happen.

He makes plans for the Seed, with the giving of His own Son. He enters into an unconditional covenant with Abraham that this is going to take place. And He's going to pay the price.

After hundreds of years isn't it marvelous at Christmastime that at a glorious moment of triumph to a lonely stable in Bethlehem, God would come in Jesus as our Savior?! The mighty God leaving the scepter and the throne, the crown, taking the form of a man! Who can comprehend a love and a commitment like that?

Words fail us when we try to express the destitution and the poverty of moving about for 33 years with no place to lay His head. A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, always giving as a servant.

The world was still in complete silence, even the choring angels stopped their praises of the Father when He turned His back and the only words heard on the sounding of the air was the orphan cry of the Son, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?!"

And yet out of Calvary comes rivers of righteousness to restore the relationship! And God says, "That's about enough. I'll give you My Spirit to dwell in you, and My grace to carry you through."

Think of the times we've thwarted the purposes of God in making us like His Son. He just keeps on giving forgiveness and patience and the slow painful process, making us like

Himself.

He created us for that relationship. He purchased it by the blood of His Son and He provides all we need as the foundation of it. But the greatest gift of all is beyond that.

All of that that we've described according to God is the engagement ring, it's the down payment, it's the earnestness of the inheritance! Realize that He loves us so much that He has gone to get our residence ready! And He's been working 2,000 years on His Christmas present for us?!

There are many dwelling places and He's gone to prepare a place. And eye hath not seen, near ear heard, neither has it ever entered into your heart what we have to look forward to, because of what He's about ready to give you.

Now we say we're lonely today. He said, "I'll never leave you nor forsake you." (ref. Hebrews 13:5)

In many ways God just strips us down so we get homesick for heaven. Overwhelming gratitude would well up in our hearts when we realize that He's gone to prepare it. He's going to come to take us to be with Himself.

Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold!
(source unknown)

Emotions run pretty deep, don't they?

Eyes filled with tears of gratitude, and the voices choked into silence when we think of what He's doing and what He's done.

Thank God for the Word, the gift, that we can't describe.

We have seven lessons from this passage:

Lesson #1: Giving is an investment.

Lesson #2: It's private.

Lesson #3: The attitude in giving is more important to God than the amount of the gift.

Lesson #4: The Lord is able to supply what you need to give.

Lesson #5: A harvest of righteousness will result from your faithful giving.

Lesson #6: God is glorified and thanksgiving is expressed when we give.

Lesson #7: The greatest gift of all is the gift of the Father's Son, even Jesus Christ.

John 3:16

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have

everlasting life.

God waits to give us the gift of His Son.

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come into him and will have fellowship with him and he with me.

And the tragedy of Christmas is in John 1:11:

John 1:11-12

He came unto His own and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God.

Okay, granddad, grandma, mother and daddy, your child operates on very limited resources. But they've been planning a gift for six months. They've been mowing lawns, raking leaves, and taking out the garbage. And the other day they got it out of lay-a-way and they got it wrapped under the tree and they're counting the hours till we open that present.

Christmas morning comes and our first response is, "It's unsuitable and it's not desirable."

We'd never do that, would we? And yet we'd sit here today as people who know the gospel of Jesus Christ, and we do that

with God's greatest gift.

It doesn't fit. We can't wear it in public. We don't like it. He's going to take away our joy.

Perish the thought. He waits between God's Christmas tree and the Cross of Calvary, to give us life.

All saints and children of God, rejoice. And let it bear us up through the Christmas season.

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.
My gracious master and my God, assist me to proclaim
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy
name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows
cease.

Tis music in the sinner's ears, tis life and health and peace.
He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner
free.

His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for
you.

Hear Him, ye deaf, His praise, ye dumb, your loosened
tongues employ.

Ye blind, behold your Saviour come and leap, ye lame for joy.

(source unknown)

Oh great God of the universe, Father of us who know the Savior, we come to express our gratitude and thanksgiving. It seems pretty shallow as we're overwhelmed with what You've done. God You've given from the very beginning. We thank You for Your love and provision. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Study Number Six – God the Greatest Giver – 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

NOTES

I. The PRINCIPLE of Giving—verses 6-8

v. 6 Now this I am saying: “He who is sowing sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who is sowing bountifully shall also reap bountifully.

v. 7 Let each one give just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God is loving a cheerful giver.

v. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, in order that having always enough of everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

II. The PROMISE of Giving—verses 9-10

v. 9 even as it stands written: “He scattered abroad, he gave to those who are poor, his righteousness is abiding forever.”

v. 10 Now he who is supplying seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

III. The PROVISION of Giving—verses 11-13

v. 11 you being enriched in everything for all generosity, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

v. 12 Because the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but also is overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

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v. 13 Because of the approved character of your service they are glorifying God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all.

IV. The POTENTIAL for Giving—verse 14

v. 14 While they also, with petitions on your behalf, are longing for you because of the extraordinary grace of God in you.

V. The PICTURE for Giving—verse 15

v. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

Lesson #1: Giving is an investment.

Matthew 6:20

Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in or steal.

Lesson #2: Giving is a private matter.

Lesson #3: The attitude in giving is more important to God than the amount of the gift.

Lesson #4: The Lord is able to supply what you need to give.

Lesson #5: A harvest of righteousness will result from your faithful giving.

Lesson #6: God is glorified and thanksgiving is expressed when we give.

Lesson #7: The greatest gift of all is the gift of the Father's Son, even Jesus Christ.

John 3:16

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
