

May 5, 2013 Sermon Application Handout

“Cheerful Giving”

2 Corinthians 9

1. Before you begin, take a moment to pray and ask God to help you become a more giving person who strives to meet the needs of His people and have a heart of biblical giving.
2. Review last week's sermon application notes; what changes did you make as a result of applying last week's lesson?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-5. What is the first point that Pastor Tim gives regarding the Heart of Biblical Giving?

I. The _____ to Give.

4. We learned last week that the Christians in Macedonia were eager to give for the relief of the saints in Jerusalem despite their affliction and extreme poverty. In fact, Paul uses them as an example to motivate the Church in Corinth to give in the same way which was sacrificially, voluntarily, and eagerly. According to 2 Corinthians 9:1-5, what are some additional ways Paul encourages the church in Corinth to have a heart of biblical giving?
5. Additionally, what was the commitment that the church at Corinth made to Paul regarding their giving? How does Paul reminding them of their commitment help them to be disciplined in their giving?
6. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you had an opportunity to give but could not because of a lack of discipline? To guard against that in the future, list out some practical ways you can "plan" to give. In other words, how can you remember to give consistently and faithfully?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 9:6-7. What is the second point that Pastor Tim gives regarding the Heart of Biblical Giving?

II. The _____ to Give.

8. List out ways in which we are expected to give. Who was an example of this (see 1 Cor. 8:1-4)? Is this attitude that we are to have just limited to giving? Why or why not?

9. What about you? What is your attitude toward giving? Do you sow sparingly or abundantly? In other words are you open-handed with your time, money, and possessions? What legacy are you leaving for your children or those you disciple?

10. So what is the point God is getting at so far in the text? What do you think should bring the most joy and contentment in one's life?

11. In the Old Testament, tithing (to give a tenth) was commanded for a variety of reasons (see Lev. 27; Num 18; Deut 14:28). But this criteria is not mentioned in the New Testament. Instead believers are called to give as one who has 'purposed in his heart'. This simply means to carefully consider or plan for. So coming up with a percentage can be helpful with consistent giving. How can Proverbs 3:9 be a helpful guide to you as you consider and plan carefully your giving to the church?

12. In addition to your regular giving to the church, challenge yourself this week by asking, "What can I consider setting aside financially to help with needs that come up in the body?" Although this is not required it will benefit you because it will nurture in you an attitude of cheerfulness and generosity in your giving just like the Macedonians.

13. Read 2 Corinthians 9:8-11. What is the third point that Pastor Tim gives regarding The Heart of Biblical Giving?

III. The S_____ of Giving

14. How does Paul view God? Is he a Giver or a Taker? Whom do we reflect when we sow bountifully in the body of Christ? What attribute of God enables us to be a generous giver?

15. Read Matthew 6:1-4. Whom does God want to use to meet the needs of others? What is this a reflection of (1 John 3:16-19)?

16. Read 2 Corinthians 9:12-15. What is the 4th and final point that Pastor Tim gives regarding The Heart of Biblical Giving?

IV. The R_____ to Give.

17. List out reasons why it's important to God to give of our time, money and resources within the body of Christ.

18. According to verse 15, what is a reflection of God's generosity and a motivation to help Calvary become a more giving church and meet the needs of God's people?

19. If after doing this study, you find that you have no joy in giving, take time right now to go before the Lord in prayer and ask Him to search your heart. Why are you so attached to your time, money, and possessions? Stewardship is to be an act of worship. So when a person sows sparingly, it is a reflection of what a person worships. So as you reflect, what is it that you are worshipping?

Resources:

- *Agape Leadership* by Robert Peterson and Alexander Strauch (short biography of R.C. Chapman)
- *Money, Possessions, and Eternity* by Randy Alcorn
- William Gouge on Covetousness (<http://www.puritansermons.com/gouge/covindx.htm>)
- "The Ten Commandments" by Thomas Watson
(http://www.gracegems.org/Watson/ten_commandments12.htm)
- www.ssfoundation.net

"The key to everything [the Puritans] said on the topic [of money] was their conviction that money is a social good, not a private possession. Its main purpose is the welfare of everyone in society, not the personal pleasure of the person who happens to have control over it' (Leland Ryken, *Worldly Saints*, 57)