

**Church Matters: Giving**  
2 Corinthians 8-9

**5 Principles for Giving**

- Giving should be seen as a privilege, not a burden, for the Christian. (8:1-7)

*In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* (Acts 20:35)

*But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.* (Matthew 6:20)

*For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.* (Psalm 50:10-11)

- Giving is often a good indicator of the condition of our heart. (8:8)
  - For non-Christians, be careful about thinking you can buy God's favor.
  - For Christians, be careful about thinking you can bypass God's warnings.

*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* (Matthew 6:21)

*Earthly goods are given to be used, not to be collected. In the wilderness God gave Israel the manna every day, and they had no need to worry about food and drink. Indeed, if they kept any of the manna over until the next day, it went bad. In the same way, the disciple must receive his portion from God every day. If he stores it up as a permanent possession, he spoils not only the gift, but himself as well, for he sets his heart on accumulated wealth, and makes it a barrier between himself and God. Where our treasure is, there is our trust, our security, our consolation and our God. Hoarding is idolatry.* (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

- Giving is prompted and instructed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. (8:9)
  - Prompted by: we have received eternal life because of Jesus.
  - Instructed by: we have witnessed sacrificial giving through Jesus.

*This poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. <sup>44</sup> For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had.* (Mark 12:43-44)

- Giving should be Spirit-driven for the Christian. (9:7)

*But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:16-18)*

- Giving is ultimately Godward. (9:8-15)
  - All our giving is supplied by God's provision. (9:8-11a)
  - All our giving is given for God's praise. (9:11b-15)

*"Money isn't an idol. It just shows you where your idols are." (Tim Keller)*