

TOTAL GRACE: "Happy to Give Part 1"

INTRODUCTION: "Sacrificing Grace"

- **"Baptized billfolds"**: Whatever we have belongs to God, because what we have, He gave!
Job 41:11; Proverbs 3:9

Context:

- The **History**: A famine in Judea, Gentile believers were giving to this need (Acts 27:11-30).
- The **Theology**: The grace of God, the gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Cor 8:9, 9:8)

THE MOTIVE OF GIVING (2 Corinthians 8-9)

A. The Praise of God: The motive of giving is the glory of God!

John 3:16, 2 Cor 8:19, 8:23; 9:11-13

Application: Make money honestly, hold it lightly, spend it wisely, give it generously.

B. The Poverty of God: God's generosity to us should motivate us to give.

- Christ gave us His **riches** and became **poor**, so that we in our **poverty** would become **rich**.

"When you add up everything you have that money can't buy and death can't take away, then you'll know how wealthy you are."

"Some people are so poor all they have is money." (Adrian Rogers)

- We should be motivated by **divine love** to give, more than **human need**.

C. The People of God: Love for God's family should motivate us to give.

- Fellowship has **economic implications**.
- Giving is an act of **fellowship** (*koinonia* – lit. a "sharing together")
Philippians 1:15-18, Acts 2:44-45, 4:35-37

"Don't give until it hurts. Give until it feels good." (Adrian Rogers)

THE MANNER OF GIVING (2 Corinthians 8-9)

- ✓ **Grace giving is costly/sacrificial**.
2 Corinthians 8:2

- The churches of Macedonia gave **generously** out of their **extreme poverty**.
Exodus 36:6-7
- **Giving** is not dictated by **ability**.
Proverbs 3:10, Luke 21:1-4, 2 Sam 24:24

"The question is not how much of my money I give to God, but rather how much of God's money I keep for myself." (R.G. LeTourneau)

Shepherd Group Study Questions

December 9, 2018

REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

Pastor Philip opened his sermon with the illustration of Sam Houston who wanted his wallet to be baptized along with himself. What do you think about this illustration? What are some reasons why it might be difficult to talk about financial giving in the church?

2

The sermon looked at three motives for giving in the Christian life: the Praise of God, the Poverty of God, and the People of God. What are some unbiblical motivations to give? What happens when we are not motivated by the right things in relation to our giving?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament speak to the subject of giving. Take some time and reflect on the following passages and ask God to help you apply them to your life.

Exodus 36:6-7 *English Standard Version (ESV)*

So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, "Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.

Proverbs 3:9-10 *English Standard Version (ESV)*

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Luke 21:1-4 *English Standard Version (ESV)*

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Philippians 4:16-19 *English Standard Version (ESV)*

Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

God is interested in the **heart attitude** of our giving. What are some heart attitudes that are mentioned in these passages?

Giving is an act of **fellowship with other believers**. How did the Philippians' gift to Paul show their support of his ministry? How did this gift bring encouragement to Paul?

2 Pastor Philip said in his sermon that the **true riches in life are spiritual in nature**. What are some of the spiritual blessings that you are most thankful this day? Take a moment to list 2-3 specific blessings that “are not taxable” and thank God for these blessings.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1 Pastor Philip mentioned four ways that we can pursue cheerful giving to the Lord. Focus on **one** of the four areas below. Are there any specific applications you'd like to work on in the next few days/weeks that could help you grow in that area?

- *Make money honestly:*

- *Hold money lightly:*

- *Spend money wisely:*

- *Give it generously:*

2 We were taught in the sermon that giving ought to be motivated by **divine love**. Take a moment and reflect on God's love towards you, expressed through the work of His Son Jesus Christ. Write a short prayer of devotion thanking God for His steadfast love (Psalm 63:3).

ADDITIONAL REFLECTIONS

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