**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Grace of Giving |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 2 Corinthians 8-9 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2109 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. All giving is wrapped up in grace.
   2. 2 Corinthians 8:1-2
      1. God poured out His grace upon the Macedonian churches, and they became very liberal in their giving even though they were in dire poverty.
   3. 2 Corinthians 8:7
      1. Grace and giving go together.
   4. We have three objectives in our local churches:
      1. We are to magnify Jesus Christ through worship and the Word.
      2. We are to move believers in Jesus toward maturity and ministry.
         1. We are to help people mature so that they can minister to other people.
         2. God’s plan is not for us to simply go to church on Sunday morning to sit, soak and sour; we are to serve.
         3. We should ask ourselves if we have grown up.
            1. We can be young only once, but we can be immature for a long time.
      3. We are to make Jesus known to our neighbors and to the nations.
         1. We are to tell others of the saving love of Jesus Christ.
      4. This is the Great Commission.
         1. If we are not obedient to the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ, then we are guilty of high treason against Heaven’s King.
   5. We live in a desperate age in which people celebrate depravity.
      1. In the midst of this, we are to reach the world for Jesus Christ.
      2. It is through strong churches that we will reach the world.
2. THE OBLIGATION OF GRACE GIVING (2 Corinthians 8:1-9)
   1. Grace giving is not eliminated by poverty.
      1. 2 Corinthians 8:1-2
      2. The people in Macedonia had been persecuted and were destitute.
         1. Their living and their goods had been taken from them.
      3. While their standard of living had changed, their standard of life did not.
         1. Luke 12:15
         2. Our standard of living may change, but it cannot change our standard of life if we have life in the Lord Jesus.
      4. Changes in our standard of living need not affect our standard of giving.
         1. The people in Macedonia continued to give.
            1. And they had great joy in the midst of all the affliction.
            2. Great affliction, deep poverty plus grace equals abounding joy and abounding liberality.

If we want joy, we need to learn to give.

* + - 1. The people in Macedonia continued to give even during a time of economic distress, not because they had plenty but because they had little.
    1. If God cannot trust us with little, then He cannot trust us with much.
       1. The test of what we would do with a million dollars is what we do with what we have currently.
       2. Luke 16:10
       3. If we are not faithful with that which is least, then we would have even more difficulty being faithful with that which is much.
    2. Everybody can give something.
  1. Grace giving is not energized by pressure.
     1. 2 Corinthians 8:3-4
        1. The people in Macedonia did not have to be pressured to give.
           1. They begged Paul to take the gift.
     2. Grace giving means that we give out of our hearts because we want to.
     3. Luke 12:34
        1. People will often become upset when the church teaches on giving.
           1. They become upset because their treasure is not found in the church.
        2. If your treasure is found in Jesus and what Jesus loves (the church), then your heart will be there, also.
        3. Where is your treasure?
  2. Grace giving is not excused by performance.
     1. 2 Corinthians 8:7
     2. There is no performance or service we can perform; whether it be preaching, teaching, speaking, faith, knowledge, diligence, love - that is a substitute for grace giving.
  3. Grace giving is not enforced by power.
     1. 2 Corinthians 8:8-9
        1. The Apostle Paul did not command anyone to give.
     2. We are motivated by love to give.
        1. 2 Corinthians 8:8-9
        2. In the light of Calvary, giving is nothing to ask.
        3. The person who gives is the one who has been captured by Calvary.
           1. We do not give to build a building.
           2. We do not give to keep the church afloat.
           3. We do not give for a tax deduction.
           4. We do not give for appearances.
           5. We give because of Calvary’s love.
  4. There is no excuse not to give if we have known the grace of God.

1. THE OPERATION OF GRACE GIVING (2 Corinthians 8:11-23)
   1. It is to be marked by performance.
      1. 2 Corinthians 8:11
      2. It is not excused by performance (what we have done), but it is to be marked by performance (what we will do).
         1. It is easy to talk about giving, but grace giving is marked by performance.
         2. We should give.
      3. Do not miss the joy of giving.
         1. With legacy giving, we can make our money work for the Lord Jesus and still leave an inheritance for our children.
            1. A wise man leaves a wise inheritance for his children.
   2. It is to be measured by providence.
      1. 2 Corinthians 8:12
         1. The question is not what we would do with it if we had it, but what will we do with what we have?
      2. 2 Corinthians 8:13-15
         1. We should give according to God’s blessing; according to what we have.
            1. We do not have what we have simply because of our intelligence or work ethic, but because we have been blessed by God.
      3. 1 Corinthians 16:2
         1. This passage is not saying that everything should be put into one pot.
         2. It is not equal gifts but equal sacrifice.
            1. 2 Corinthians 8:13
      4. Matthew 12:41-42
         1. The account of the widow’s mite tells us that, with her couple of pennies, she gave more than all of the wealthy people put together.
         2. She gave her whole living.
         3. Our Lord measures our gifts not by what we don’t have, but by what we do have.
      5. Luke 12:48
      6. The Bible is not against being rich.
         1. Deuteronomy 8:18
         2. Genesis 13:2
         3. 1 Chronicles 29:28
         4. Matthew 27:57
         5. Acts 4:36-37
         6. John 12:1-3
      7. The Bible is opposed to ruthless greed and hoarding.
         1. Matthew 6:19
            1. The word “treasure” in this Scripture means “a collection.”
         2. God wants us to enjoy the fruit of our labor; but if we store up a collection of good things just to look upon them while others around us are in need, we should put our wealth into circulation in order to be a blessing and to be blessed.
   3. It is to be managed by prudence.
      1. 2 Corinthians 8:17-18
         1. Titus was a church leader and Paul’s chosen ambassador.
         2. Titus and another brother came to get the offering.
            1. Matthew 18:16
      2. Who should handle the offerings in the church?
         1. Men of compassion.
            1. Their praise should be in the Gospel.
            2. They should be concerned for lost souls.
         2. Men of consecration.
            1. 2 Corinthians 8:19
            2. They should do it for the glory of God.

The church is not divided into two parts, the sacred and the secular, with the pastor taking care of the sacred and the finance committee taking care of the secular.

Everything we do should be for the glory of God.

We give to the glory of God, and the money is to be managed for the glory of God.

* + - 1. Men of character.
         1. 2 Corinthians 8:20-21
         2. Those who handle the funds must have absolute and impeccable integrity, honesty and full accountability.
      2. Men of competency.
         1. 2 Corinthians 8:22-23

1. THE OPPORTUNITY OF GRACE GIVING (2 Corinthians 9:2-15)
   1. It is an opportunity to encourage the saints.
      1. 2 Corinthians 9:2
      2. When we are on fire for Jesus, we encourage others to be on fire for Him.
      3. When we give and God blesses our giving, it encourages others to give.
   2. It is an opportunity to enrich the sower.
      1. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
      2. A farmer does not weep when he puts seed in the ground.
         1. He knows that God gives both bread to the eater and seed to the sower.
      3. We are foolish if we do not put seed into the ground.
         1. What someone places in God’s hand is never lost.
            1. It is not a gift.
            2. It is an investment.
            3. Luke 6:38
   3. It is an opportunity to exalt the Savior.
      1. 2 Corinthians 9:12-13
      2. 2 Corinthians 9:15
         1. The unspeakable gift is Jesus Christ.
      3. 2 Corinthians 8:8
      4. Romans 10:12-13
2. CONCLUSION
   1. God has given each of us a gift that the Apostle Paul could not describe - it is the gift of grace, the gift of salvation.
   2. Have you received God’s unspeakable gift, the Lord Jesus Christ?
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16