

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Grace of Giving

SERMON REFERENCE: 2 Corinthians 8-9

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2109

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) All giving is wrapped up in grace.
- b) 2 Corinthians 8:1-2
 - i) God poured out His grace upon the Macedonian churches, and they became very liberal in their giving even though they were in dire poverty.
- c) 2 Corinthians 8:7
 - i) Grace and giving go together.
- d) We have three objectives in our local churches:
 - i) We are to magnify Jesus Christ through worship and the Word.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) We can be young only once, but we can be immature for a long time.
 - iii) 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.
 - iv) 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.
- e) We live in a desperate age in which people celebrate depravity.
 - i) In the midst of this, we are to reach the world for Jesus Christ.
 - ii) It is through strong churches that we will reach the world.

2) THE OBLIGATION OF GRACE GIVING (2 Corinthians 8:1-9)

- a) Grace giving is not eliminated by poverty.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 8:1-2
 - ii) The people in Macedonia had been persecuted and were destitute.
 - (1) Their living and their goods had been taken from them.
 - iii) 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.
 - iv) Changes in our standard of living need not affect our standard of giving.
 - (1) The people in Macedonia continued to give.
 - (a) And they had great joy in the midst of all the affliction.
 - (b) Great affliction, deep poverty plus grace equals abounding joy and abounding liberality.
 - (i) If we want joy, we need to learn to give.
 - (2) The people in Macedonia continued to give even during a time of economic distress, not because they had plenty but because they had little.

- v) 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.
 - vi) Everybody can give something.
 - b) Grace giving is not energized by pressure.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 8:3-4
 - (1) The people in Macedonia did not have to be pressured to give.
 - (a) They begged Paul to take the gift.
 - ii) Grace giving means that we give out of our hearts because we want to.
 - iii) Luke 12:34
 - (1) People will often become upset when the church teaches on giving.
 - (a) 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?
 - c) Grace giving is not excused by performance.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 8:7
 - ii) 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.
 - d) Grace giving is not enforced by power.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 8:8-9
 - (1) The Apostle Paul did not command anyone to give.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) We do not give to build a building.
 - (b) We do not give to keep the church afloat.
 - (c) We do not give for a tax deduction.
 - (d) We do not give for appearances.
 - (e) We give because of Calvary's love.
 - e) There is no excuse not to give if we have known the grace of God.
- 3) THE OPERATION OF GRACE GIVING (2 Corinthians 8:11-23)
- a) It is to be marked by performance.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 8:11
 - ii) 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.
- iii) 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.
 - (a) A wise man leaves a wise inheritance for his children.
- b) It is to be measured by providence.
 - i) 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?
 - ii) 2 Corinthians 8:13-15
 - (1) We should give according to God's blessing; according to what we have.
 - (a) We do not have what we have simply because of our intelligence or work ethic, but because we have been blessed by God.
 - iii) 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.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 8:13
 - iv) 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.
 - v) Luke 12:48
 - vi) 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
 - vii) The Bible is opposed to ruthless greed and hoarding.
 - (1) Matthew 6:19
 - (a) 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.
- c) It is to be managed by prudence.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) Matthew 18:16
- ii) Who should handle the offerings in the church?
 - (1) Men of compassion.
 - (a) Their praise should be in the Gospel.
 - (b) They should be concerned for lost souls.
 - (2) Men of consecration.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 8:19
 - (b) They should do it for the glory of God.
 - (i) 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.
 - (ii) Everything we do should be for the glory of God.
 - 1. We give to the glory of God, and the money is to be managed for the glory of God.
 - (3) Men of character.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 8:20-21
 - (b) Those who handle the funds must have absolute and impeccable integrity, honesty and full accountability.
 - (4) Men of competency.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 8:22-23
- 4) THE OPPORTUNITY OF GRACE GIVING (2 Corinthians 9:2-15)
 - a) It is an opportunity to encourage the saints.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 9:2
 - ii) When we are on fire for Jesus, we encourage others to be on fire for Him.
 - iii) When we give and God blesses our giving, it encourages others to give.
 - b) It is an opportunity to enrich the sower.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) We are foolish if we do not put seed into the ground.
 - (1) What someone places in God's hand is never lost.
 - (a) It is not a gift.
 - (b) It is an investment.
 - (c) Luke 6:38
 - c) It is an opportunity to exalt the Savior.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 9:12-13
 - ii) 2 Corinthians 9:15
 - (1) The unspeakable gift is Jesus Christ.
 - iii) 2 Corinthians 8:8
 - iv) Romans 10:12-13

5) CONCLUSION

- a) 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.
- b) Have you received God's unspeakable gift, the Lord Jesus Christ?
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16