

## **Giving Joyfully to our Lord!**

Cornerstone Community Church – Pastor Jerry Ernst  
November 17, 2024 (Stewardship Series #2)

**Scripture:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:1-9; 9:5-7

**STEWARDSHIP DEFINITION:** STEWARDSHIP IS THE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF MY LIFE & GIVING IN ORDER TO ENHANCE AND GROW THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

### **Principles of tithing... John Maxwell**

**God's the Owner – I'm the manager** (Psalm 24:1) - *"(1) The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;"*

**Practicing Stewardship produces growth** (Matthew 6:20) - *"(20) But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy,"*

**Stewardship deals with our present resources** - *"The person who waits to do a great deal of good at once – will never do anything"* (Samuel Johnson).

**God deserves the first of everything** - 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 16:2 - *"(2) On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper."*

Proverbs 3:9 - *"(9) Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase."*

**Stewardship begins with loving, not giving** 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:7 - *"(7) not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."*

**Stewardship believes until God is in control of my life, I am out of control**

**You cannot out give God** (Malachi 3:10-12) - *"(10) ... 'Test me in this' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing...'"*

**Context:** During Paul's Third missionary journey, he collected offerings for the impoverished Christians in Jerusalem from the Macedonian churches: *Philippi, Thessalonica & Berea*. Paul reminds the Corinthian Church to follow through with their promise to give to hurting Christians in Jerusalem.

**Godly Giving: Paul's two examples of sacrifice** (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:1-9)

**First Example - The Macedonian Christians:** (Vv. 1-5)

- **They sacrificially shared their money with the Jerusalem Church:** (Vv. 1-4)
- **They surrendered their will to Jesus:** *"(5) And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will."*

**Second Example – Jesus Christ: (Vs. 9)** *"(9) For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that through his poverty might become rich."*

- **Why Jesus did this?** His grace-filled sacrifice made spiritually poor people rich.

### **Stewardship Lessons of Giving Joyfully to our Lord** (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:1-9; 9:5-7)

**1) The Joy of Giving is going beyond our ability** (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:1-3)

*"(1) And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the **Macedonian churches**. (2) Out of the most **severe trial**, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. (3) For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even **beyond** their ability. Entirely on their own."*

- The Macedonian Church (*Philippi, Thessalonica & Berea*) gave because they had the joy of Jesus in their hearts.

**SEVERE:** (Gk: *thlipsis*): **“Tribulation.”**

**TRIAL:** (Gk: *dokimé*): **“trial, proving, approval.”**

**BEYOND:** (Gk: *para*): **“from beside, by the side of, by.”**

**2) When Christians Give beyond what is Required, we show our Consecration to God** - “(5) And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will.”

*“Show me a man or woman who is partial in his dedication to Christ, and I’ll show you a man or woman who is partial in His giving to the Cause of Christ!”* Rev. Dr. Ed Beck

**3) Giving must be evidenced with Joy for Christ (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:6-14)**

*“(6) Remember this; Whoever sows sparingly will also **reap** sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also **reap** generously. (7) Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves **a cheerful giver.**”*

**The Reminder of Godly Giving:** (Vs. 6)

**REAP:** (Gk: *speiró*): **“To sow.”** Meaning: spread, scatter.

**The Reward of Godly Giving:** (Vv. 7-14)

**CHEERFUL:** (Gk: *hilaros*): **“cheerful, joyous.”**

**\*Usage:** Cheerful, not grudging, already won over - already persuaded; cheerfully ready to act.