

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 8:1-9

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.

Part 2

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Repentance, Salvation, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

2nd Corinthians 8:1-9

As Christians, it comes as no surprise, that what God has called us **to do** is very much impossible. What He has called us **to know** and **to preach** and **to be** like is very much impossible ! – **But with God all things are possible.**

That's why - everything about Biblical Christianity is and must be based upon "**God's Unmerited Grace**" – His grace is His ability, choice, will and delight to show us His favor and benefit for no other reason other than God is Good & Gracious.

John 1:14,16-17

:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of **grace** and truth. :16 And of His fullness we have all received, **and grace for grace**. :17 For the law was given through Moses, **but grace** and truth came through Jesus Christ.

grace caʔriß **charis**, *khar'-ece*; a deliberate and willful act. God's divine influence upon a human heart, a gratitude, an acceptable, a benefit, a gift bestowed by God.

Eph. 2:8-9

For **by grace** you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is **the gift** of God, **9** not of works, lest anyone should boast.

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

2 Cor. 8:1-9

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you **the grace of God bestowed** on the churches of Macedonia: **2** that in a **great trial of affliction** the **abundance of their joy** and their **deep poverty abounded** in the **riches** of their **liberality**. **3** For I bear witness that **according to their ability**, yes, and **beyond their ability**, they were **freely willing**, **4 imploring** us with much **urgency** that we would receive **the gift** and the **fellowship** of the **ministering** to the saints. **5** And not only as we had hoped, but they **first gave themselves to the Lord**, and **then to us** by the will of God. **6** So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete **this grace in you** as well. **7** But as you abound in everything - - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us - - see that you abound in **this grace also**. :**8** I speak not by commandment, but I am **testing** the **sincerity** of your love by the **diligence** of others. **9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.**

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

1.) Giving is an act of **grace** v. 1

The Amazing Thing Is
God has invited you and I to **grace with Him**

2 Cor. 8:1

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you **the grace of God bestowed** on the churches of Macedonia:

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

2.) Giving is an act of **sacrifice** v. 2-3

The Amazing Thing Here Is
God has invited you and I to **give with Him**
Giving is an act of sacrifice (**poverty is no excuse**) v.2

2 Cor. 8:2-3

2 that in a **great trial of affliction** the **abundance of their joy** and their deep **poverty** abounded in the riches of their **liberality**. 3 For I bear witness that **according to their ability**, yes, and **beyond their ability**, they were **freely** (*not harassed, harangued*) **willing**,

2 Cor. 8:2b

the **abundance of their joy** and their deep **poverty** abounded in the riches of their **liberality**. (*a generous spirit*)

One of the great lessons in Sacrificial Worship came from King David.

1 Chronicles 21:24b

I will not take for the LORD what is yours, (*free*) nor offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

Romans 12:8b

Let him who gives, with liberality;

2 Cor. 8:2-3

2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3 For I bear witness that **according to their ability**, yes, and **beyond their ability**, they were **freely** (*not harassed, harangued*) **willing**,

Here's Another Example of Sacrifice

John 6:4-9

Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. :5 Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "**Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?**" :6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. :7 Philip answered Him, "**Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.**" :8 One of His disciples, **Andrew**, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, :9 "**There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?**"

1 Timothy 6:10

For **the love of money** is a **root** (*source, motive, cause*) of all kinds of evil, for which some have **strayed** (*to deviate off course*) **from the faith** in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

3.) Giving is an act of **fellowship** v. 4

2 Corinthians 8:4

(the churches of Macedonia) imploring (to beg with enthusiasm) us (they came to us) with much **urgency** that we would receive the **gift** and the **fellowship** of the **ministering** to the saints.

gift + fellowship + ministering = church

**The Amazing Thing Is
God has invited you and I to be with Him in Acts of Grace.**

“Paul – We’re Not Called To Do What You Do,
So This is What We Are Going to Do No Matter What You Say.

Let Us Do Our Christianity – We Wanna Be Part of What God is Doing In The Ministry of the Word
Too. – So Here’s Our Donation.”

G. Campbell-Morgan

“By the giving of **THIS** grace of theirs, they entered into the fellowship of Christian service. Because **THE** grace they and come to know caused them to want to give back **A** grace to those in need.”

Prv. 22:9

He who has a **generous eye** will be blessed, (why?) For (because)
he gives of his bread to the poor.

Matthew 26:11 NLT

You will always have the poor among you,

Will there be scammers and abusers? – yes, but we’re not to neglect the truly poor within the family of God and those outside the church as well.

Prov. 19:17 NLT

If you help the poor, you are lending to the **LORD** and **He** will repay you!

**OUR GIVING SPEAKS VOLUMES
ABOUT WHERE OUR HEARTS REALLY ARE.**

**Guess What? All of us will put His money where our heart is.
So church, put His money where your heart is.**

Matt. 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where **moth** and **rust** destroy and where **thieves** break in and steal; **20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

“As spiritual beings we find fulfillment in worship. As worshippers, we make sacrifices at the altars that demand our affection. Even the atheist is a man of faith and he will make sacrifices upon his altar. How much more the man who knows the LORD as his God.”

Is Your Bank Account Your Treasure or Your Channel ?

So what’s in your wallet ?

Maybe not much as this world counts wealth.

But what’s in your heart ?

And how wealthy are you anyway?

John 17:23

I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

GIVING IS A BAROMETER OF OUR VALUES

And a man's checkbook will never lie

So do I give 10% of my gross or net ? (it's never really been a tithe or 10% for the believer)

2 Cor. 9:6-7

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Our gifts are not to be measured by the amount we contribute, but by the surplus kept back in our own hands. – C.H. Spurgeon

1.) Giving is an act of **grace** v. 1

2.) Giving is an act of **sacrifice** v. 2-3

3.) Giving is an act of **fellowship** v. 4

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

4.) Giving is an act of **dedication** v. 5

2 Corinthians 8:5

And not only as we had hoped, but they **first gave themselves to the Lord**, and **then to us** by the will of God.

The Amazing Thing Is

God has invited you and I to be one with Him

This is the secret to real wealth and the key to everything else in life.

*"they **first gave themselves to the Lord**"*

when we talk about "dedication" or "dedicating" something to a cause, an effort or God, **it's to be the best of the offering.**

When things are "devoted" – they get around.

God is not interested in having you sit in church all day long. He's interested in you getting up and out of here to influence the world for Jesus' sake.

Oliver Cromwell

During the reign of Oliver Cromwell, the British government began to run low on silver for coins. Lord Cromwell sent his men to the local cathedral to see if they could find any precious metal there. After investigating, they reported, The only silver we can find is in the statues of the saints standing in the corners, to which the radical soldier and statesman of England replied: "Good! We'll melt down the saints and put them in circulation!" That brief but direct order states the essence of the practical goal of authentic Christianity: Not rows of silver saints crammed into the corners of cathedrals, but melted saints circulating through the mainstream of humanity .

What do you think, which bill has the greater circulation, a \$1 dollar bill (tool) or a \$100 dollar bill (tool)?

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

Matt. 6:25-33

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? **26** Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? **27** Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? **28** “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin **29** and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **30** Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? **31** “Therefore do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?’ or “What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **32** For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things (the other stuff) shall be added to you.*”

“But they first gave themselves to the Lord”
THEY HAD PUT THEMSELVES INTO THE OFFERING FIRST.

Deut. 6:5

You shall **love the LORD** your God **with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.**

... that equals everything

“When he was but sixteen years old he left his home in Kent, England to seek employment in New York City. Having previously worked in a soap manufacturing shop he sought to do the same in America. While he was on his way he shared with the ship captain that he was **“Traveling to America that he might make soap in New York City”**, at that the man gave him this advice: **‘Son, someone will be the best soap maker in New York city some day. You can be that man. But you must never lose sight of the fact that everything about the soap you make will be given to you by God. Honor Him by giving what you earn.’**”

And so William Colgate began his tireless labor and with it he gave throughout his long and successful business career. At first Colgate gave a tenth of his earnings until he started his own soap manufacturing company. Devoting his success to God he found it a delight to have to increase his giving to 20% and then 40% until eventually the Colgate Company became the world’s leading maker of soaps. By the end of William Colgate’s life, he was able live off 10% of what the companies had profited. During the later years of his life Colgate revealed the origin of his great success, **“All that I was going to have, all that I have ever had has been devoted to God and His glory.”**

- J.C. Penney, Founder of The J.C. Penney Company
- John D. Rockefeller, Founder of American Oil, Exxon, Chevron, Mobil Oil
- H.P Cromwell, Founder of Quaker Oats
- William Proctor, Founder of Proctor & Gamble

GIVING WHAT’S BEEN GIVEN

5.) Giving is an act of maturity

v. 6-9

The Amazing Thing Is
God has invited you and I to be like Him

2 Cor. 8:7-9

But as you abound in everything - - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us - - see that you abound **in this grace also.** **:8** I speak not by commandment, **but I am testing the sincerity of your love** by the **diligence** of others. **9** **For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.**

In verse 6 thru 9 Paul gives them the "What's Up With" Christian living.

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know **the grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Is it hard for you to give to God ?

- 1.) Do you find yourself using excuses or inventing excuses ?
- 2.) Is the money in your pocket burning a hole in you right now ?
- 3.) Are you terrified that we might "take" an offering right now ?

2 Corinthians 1:1

For I know **the grace** of my Lord Jesus Christ, that though I am now rich in Him yet for the sake of others I now choose to become poor, that through my poverty I might make others rich.

Luke 6:38

Give, (*grace*) and it will be given (*graced*) to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. **For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.**"

"Alright, alright already - Is it 10% of my gross pay or 10% of my net pay? Is it before taxes or after taxes?"

2 Corinthians 9:7

So let each one give **as he purposes in his heart**, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves **a cheerful giver**.

"that though "He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor"

Begs This Question - - "What Did Jesus Leave to Come Here ?
And how rich was He anyway ?

Col. 1:16-17

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Alan Redpath Writes;

He was so rich that He gave you eyes to see - but have you looked at Him ? He was so rich that He gave you ears to hear - but have you listened to Him ? He was so rich that He gave you a mind to think but have you thought about Him ? He was so rich that He gave you a will to choose but have you chosen Him ? He was so rich that He gave you a tongue to speak but have you spoken His name ? He was so rich that He gave you your life to live - but are you living it for Him ?

>>>> The Cross, The Christ,
The Call <<<<

_____ *End of Study* _____