

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 8:10-24

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.

Part 3

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Repentance, Salvation, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

2nd Corinthians 8:10-24

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.

All of our personal gifting's, talents, influence and abilities - are all God-given tools that He has loaned us for His glory

Matt. 25:14-19

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. **15** And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. **16** Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. **17** And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. **18** But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. **19** After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

2 Cor. 8:10-12

And in this I give advice: It is to **your advantage** not only to be **doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago**; **11** but now you also **must complete the doing of it**; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. **12** For if there is **first a willing mind**, it is **accepted according** to what one has, and **not according** to what he does not have.

2 Cor. 8:13-15

For I do not mean that **others should be eased** and **you burdened**; **14** but by an **equality**, that now at this time **your abundance** may supply **their lack**, that **their abundance** also may supply **your lack** - that there may be **equality**. **15** As it is written, "*He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.*"

2 Cor. 8:16-21

But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus. **17** For he not only **accepted the exhortation**, but being more diligent, **he went to you** of his own accord. **18** And we have sent with him the brother whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches, **19** and not only that, but who was also chosen by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us to the glory of the Lord Himself and to show your ready mind, **20** avoiding this: that anyone should blame us in this lavish gift which is administered by us - **21** providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men. **22** And we have sent with them our brother whom we have often proved diligent in many things,

but now much more diligent, because of the great confidence which we have in you. **23** If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren are inquired about, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. **24** Therefore show to them, and before the churches, **the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf.**

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

1.) Heart Check - Willingness

v. 10-12

And in this I give advice: It is to **your advantage** not only to be **doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago**; **11** but now you also **must complete (perform) the doing of it**; that as **there was a readiness to desire it**, so there also may be a **completion (perform)** out of what you have. **12** For if there is **first a willing mind**, it is **accepted according** to what one has, and **not according** to what he does not have.

1 year earlier, the Corinthians had an emotional, but false start to helping.

And in this I give advice:

Paul again leans on the foundation for **all we have and have to give = "Jesus"**

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.

He gave us His **Wealth**. He gave us His **Peace**. He gave us His **Power**.
He gave us His **Throne**. He gave us His **Life**.

**There is a great difference between
"Promise" and "Performance"**

A promise ignites hope and creates dreams. The performing of the promise builds trust and character.
The breaking of a promise extinguishes hope and kills dreams. The lack of performing the promise destroys trust and character.
God keeps His promises and He is faithful to perform them and so does the Christian.

The **"Giving of What's Been Given"** is Manifested

By Paul's challenge to them to **"Act out their Willingness"**

Phil. 2:13

For **it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**

Our God is a "Grace Giving" God

we must be careful to keep our vows to God.

(**we're sure careful about keeping them to man**)

We're to be Promise Keepers

We do it all the time. Keeping your word or keeping an oath is expected of us. But as Christians we have sometimes pushed back a little bit too hard and too far when it comes to **keeping a promise or an oath to God.**

Let Me Explain

Did you know that if you have a bank account or a credit card you have made an oath and sworn a promise to that institution? Did you know that when you bought that car or flat screen tv. **You promised with an oath and promise to pay for it every month?**

We Need To Get Faithful

It's not a one time offering or promise or oath that matters to God, it's our faithfulness, day in, day out, month in, month out.

For if there is **first a willing mind**, it is **accepted according** to **what one has**, and **not according** to **what he does not have**.

Mind προθυμία **prothumia**, *proth-oo-mee'-ah*; to have a **predisposition**, a **forward thinking** of the mind, have a mind set on **readiness**. – a mind that is “on **alert**” for a need.

Listen, This is a True Statement Here;

The #1 **Motive** for Giving to God Should Be “**Grace Giving**” Meaning “**Thankfulness**”. *If you don't think God has done anything for you, then don't give a thing. Keep it for yourself. Stack it up, hoard it up – cuz its all you have.*

Several years ago Lisa and I were on vacation

and we had decided to go to a certain church on Sunday morning. That morning I awoke with a strong thought in my mind “**Be ready to give big today**” and so I told Lisa, God has really impressed upon my heart to “**Be ready to give big today**”. So off to that church we went. We heard sweet worship, the people were kind, the message was good but when we stood in line to meet the Pastor I watched and listened to how rude and cold and terse he was with the people. But I wasn't there for that, I was there to worship and worship in our giving and just then I sensed the Lord say, “**I told you to “Be ready to give big today” – I didn't say “Give”.**”

Gal. 6:9-10

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. :10
Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

We being many are one body. Together there isn't any need that we cannot meet because He is faithful to supply for it.

To manifest the grace of God here in this family of believers:

We have needs for: children's & adult diapers, a car, a refrigerator, minor plumbing repair, children's clothes, minor car repair/maintenance,

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

2.) Heart Check - Faithfulness

v. 13-15

2 Cor. 8:13-15

For I do not mean that **others should be eased** and **you burdened**; **14** but by an **equality**, that now at this time **your abundance** may supply **their lack**, that **their abundance** also may supply **your lack** - that there may be **equality**. **15** As it is written, “*He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.*”

For I do not mean that **others should be eased** and **you burdened**;
*This one verse rebukes **Communalism, Marxism, Socialism, and Communism***

God Condemns The Redistribution of Wealth.

God is not a Communist nor is He saying that the Rich are to become poor and the Poor are to become Rich or that all are to be the same like socialism demands – He is saying “Love one another.”

Our Founding Fathers understood that Communism

was not of God from both reading **the Bible** and **The Godly Treatises of John Locke** who debunked the man-centric regimes of **Plato's Republic**, and Prophetically, **Thomas Moore's Utopia** and **Marx's Communalism**

COMMUNISM SAYS

“WHAT'S YOURS IS MINE”

CAPITALISM SAYS

“WHAT'S MINE IS MINE”

CHRISTIANITY SAYS

“WHAT'S MINE IS YOURS”

**Stop and Take Inventory of What You Have or Have Power Over?
Now Evaluate Whether That Thing(s) Are Being Used to Honor God.**

Equality ἰσότης **isotes**, *ee-sot'-ace*; likeness or association in condition or situation. I give what I can, you give what you can, – we give what we can.

Gal. 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, **faithfulness**,

Gal. 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love,

love = joy, **love** = peace, **love** = longsuffering, **love** = kindness, **love** = goodness, **love** = **faithfulness**,

What Is “Faithfulness” in Regards to The Context Here ?

Consistency, Dependability, we need to be careful today that our giving is not a “one time event” - that it is given to appease the consciences. Rather it needs to begin today as a **“Life-long act of faithfulness”**.

As it is written, *“He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.”*

**Who is responsible for seeing to the “Equalizing” between them?
(God Does the Equalizing)**

Ex. 16:16-18

This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: “Let every man gather it according to each one’s need, one **omer** (or about 2 U.S. Quarts of Measurement) for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.” :17 Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. 18 So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one’s need.

BTW – you could not hoard the manna

Jesus taught us that we’re to pray – “give us this day our daily bread”

**The “Giving of What’s Been Given” is Manifested
By Paul’s reminder to them to “Trust God to take care of you”**

GIVING WHAT’S BEEN GIVEN

3.) Heart Check - Love

v. 16-24

But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus. 17 For he not only **accepted the exhortation**, but being more diligent, **he went to you** of his own accord.

Love Propelled Him toward the Need

But thanks be to God Who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus and Jack and Donald and Mickey and..... You - - Right ?

1 John 3:16

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 **But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?**

And we have sent with him the brother whose praise (*fame*) is in the gospel (*a missionary evangelist*) throughout all the churches (*possibly luke*), **19** and not only that, but who was also chosen by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us **to the glory of the Lord Himself** and to **show your ready mind**,

ready mind προθυμία *prothumia*, *proth-oo-mee'-ah*; to have a **predisposition**, a **forward thinking** of the mind, have a mind set on **readiness**. – a mind that is “on **alert**” for a need.

“Powered by Love”

The “Giving of What’s Been Given” is Manifested
By Paul’s praise for Titus “Always ready to serve and to bless.”

We end this chapter with an awesome “**reality-reminder**”
Real church happens because of **transformed, yielded, surrendered, giving, sold-out, loving** people.
(like **Titus**, maybe **Luke**, maybe **Apollos**)

:**22** And we have sent with them our brother whom we have often proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, because of the great confidence which we have in you. **23** If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren are inquired about, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. **24** Therefore show to them, and before the churches, the **proof of your love** and of **our boasting** on your behalf.

And It Happens “Right”

20 **avoiding this:** that anyone should **blame us** in this lavish gift which is administered by us - **21** providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Who Wants To Destroy a Godly Christian Witness?
(answer: **Satan, The World = IRS**)
so give them what they want - in advance

you should know that no one here at Calvary can

literally spend a dime without fences and guard rails in place.

Every transaction, check or purchase order cannot happen without multiple signatures. (*it’s a blessed pain the neck which we are happy to suffer*)

Willing, Faithful and Loving Brothers and Sisters In the work of God are His invaluable deposits in the growth and effectiveness of a healthy church.

God’s church gets along when **God’s people** are doing **God’s business**.

My daughter this week said to me “*Dad if the church isn’t helping to get young women out of the slave markets in India, we need to get on that.*”

How do we become “**more willing**” to give?
(*we invite the Lord to overrule us*)

How do we become “**more loving**” to give?
(*we put others ahead of ourselves*)

How do we become “**more faithful?**” to give
(*we think heavenly minded knowing a day is coming*)

How do we become more like Jesus? We Follow through with the Love-tug”

Hebrews 13:16

But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

I want to leave you with this picture.

In Israel there are two bodies of water called “seas”. They are both nourished by the same Jordan river. In one sea there is life. Children play along its banks, water-skiers ski, fishermen fish and crops are watered that feed the nation. The other sea receives the same flow from the Jordan river but there is no life in it, no children play along its banks, no water-skiers ski, no fishermen fish and no crops are watered that feed the nation. Why? Because one receives life-giving water and gives life. The other receives life-giving water gives nothing away – One is called the Galilee and the other is called the dead Sea.

John 7:37-39a

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “**If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**” **39** But this He spoke concerning the Holy Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive.

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

End of Study

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