

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 9:1-6

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.

Part 4

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Service, Dedication, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text; **2nd Corinthians 9:1-6**

The Apostle Paul has been arguing, on numerous fronts, that Giving to God's Efforts is of Eternal Value.

That (#1) we are here for only a brief period of time and **that (#2)** we are to use what we have been given for eternal value.

Within the Calvary Chapel Movement, its founder Chuck Smith would often say *"When God Guides, God Provides"*

That would be a modern day version of the time tested truth that Hudson Taylor once discovered a long time ago...

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply."

If you were to do your own personal study in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, You would most often see this section titled as

"Paul's Solicitation for the Jerusalem Church"

His **Solicitation** is an act of **Intercession**

Solicitation meaning, "to plead for something or to gain something from another **for another.**"

Intercessions meaning, "to plead for something or to gain something from another **for another.**"

2 Cor. 9:1-6

Now concerning **the ministering to the saints**, it is **superfluous** for me to write to you; **2** for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the **Macedonians**, that **Achaia** (*the capitol of Corinth*) was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority. **3** Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, you may be ready; **4** lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting. **5** Therefore **I thought it necessary** to **exhort** the brethren to go to you **ahead of time**, and **prepare your generous gift beforehand**, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of **generosity** and not as a **grudging obligation**. **:6** But this I say: He who **sows sparingly** will also **reap sparingly**, and he who **sows bountifully** will also **reap bountifully**.

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

1.) **Jesus gives without reservation** v. 1-2

Now concerning **the ministering to the saints**, it is **sue' per' fluous** for me to write to you; **2** for I know **your willingness**, about which I **boast** of you to the **Macedonians**, that **Achaia** (*the capitol of Corinth*) was ready a year ago; and **your zeal** has stirred up the majority.

Su'per'fluos περισσός **perissos**, *per-is-sos*; more than obvious, superabundantly clear – a no brainer.

Our Example is the Generosity of Jesus Christ

How has Jesus Christ Proven Himself to be Generous?

By Him Offering Up Himself

Jesus gives without reservation

Gal. 1:4a

Who (*Jesus Christ*) **gave Himself** for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age,

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but **delivered Him** up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Concerning Our Ministering to the Saints.

Jesus Christ has given us the ultimate example of love by His ready and willing sacrifice of Himself for our eternal benefit. You and I cannot fully do that for one another. It is true that Jesus said “no greater love does a man have than to lay down his life for his friend” but what we offer to our friend is a mere type or symbol of that great love which He has loved us with.

So then, giving to the needs of other Believers

Is something that goes far beyond us as individual Christians or as a church of believers. It is a “natural – supernatural currency exchange from this world to the world to come”

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us **consider (provoke)** one another in order to **stir up love and good works**, **25 not forsaking** the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, **but exhorting** one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Acts 20:35b

...Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He **said** (*was always known for saying*), **“It is more blessed** (*much happier for you*) **to give than to receive.”**

have you noticed that “when you get, you tend to forget”

you leave the tool outside or the toy is quickly disregarded?

But when you give, there is a continuing memory of it.

It comes back to your mind again and again with a sense of satisfaction.

Eph. 5:25-26

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, **26** that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

Jesus gives without reservation

John 4:13-14

Jesus answered and said to her, **“Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”**

John 7:37b-39

“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 Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive;

When the Living Water of the Holy Spirit waters the Seed of God’s Word it produces Everlasting Life for anyone who drinks.

Jesus gives without reservation

We need to be careful, prayerful and wise about what God has given to our stewardship.
(what you have is only yours to manage)

Parents, Grandparents Listen;

we are not to pass along **our “ministry of management”** to an unworthy steward like a son or daughter or an institution or dog or a cat.

Prov. 11:24-26 NIV

One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds selfishly, but comes to poverty. **25** A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. **26** People curse the one who hoards grain, but they pray God's blessing on the one who is willing to sell.

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

2.) Jesus gives in such a way

v. 3-4

3 Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, you may be **ready**; **4** lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you **unprepared**, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting.

Our Example is That Jesus is Always Ready to Give.

Jesus' way of giving always speaks to others because
He gives as the need demands.

As you read the Gospels – what do you find ?

You find Jesus **always ready** and **willing** to give.
He gave at a **wedding** / He gave at a **funeral** / He gave at a **synagogue**

There is no way I can say this truth without offending someone – *but this is a holy and godly offense;*

If someone comes up to you and tells you about their god, ask them

- 1.) "what has your god done **for you** and those who follow this god?"
- 2.) "what has your god done **for that nation** of those who follow this god?"

Matt. 7:13-15a

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. **14** Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. **:15**
"Beware of false prophets,

Jesus gives in such a way

He can take what's broken and fix it. He can take what's empty and fill it. He can take what's ugly and make it beautiful.

Jesus gives in such a way – so should we.

Luke 16:9 NLT

Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, **they** (*your redeemed resources*) will welcome you to an eternal home.

Biblical Scholars argue over the meaning of the word "they". Is it those who have benefitted from your generosity of service (the needy or the missionary or the poor) or is "they" the good works that will greet you? – the answer is: who cares? Because it all works.

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

3.) Jesus gives with the end in sight

v. 5-6

5 Therefore I thought it necessary to **exhort** the brethren to **(#1)** go to you **ahead of time**, and **(#2)** **prepare your generous gift beforehand**, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as **(#3)** **a matter of generosity** and **(#4)** not as a **grudging obligation**. **:6** *But this I say: He who **sows sparingly** will also **reap sparingly**, and he who **sows bountifully** will also **reap bountifully**.*

Exhort παρακαλέω parakaleo, par-ak-al-eh'-o; to call near, to invite, to summon or to convey.

(#1) go to you **ahead of time**, and
(#2) **prepare your generous gift beforehand**, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as
(#3) **a matter of generosity** and
(#4) not as a **grudging obligation**.

I have to tell you that I should end at **verse 5** but I can't.
I will **end** this week **and begin** next week with **verse 6**.

6 But this I say: He who **sows sparingly** will also **reap sparingly**,
and he who **sows bountifully** will also **reap bountifully**.

The Science of God

Imagine with me a farmer getting ready to seed his fields but decides;

"I think I'll play it safe this year. I will cast out about 10 seeds per acre of land so I can save my seed." That farmer will starve and so will his family. By his poor stewardship, he wastes both the purpose of the seed and of his land

I'm sorry that I cannot remember where I saw this **mathematical model**, but the graph showed how famine can be the natural result of meteorological conditions brought on by drought. However, Geopolitical famines are unnecessary due to the fact a single kernel of corn planted in **the 25% of arable land on earth** - in a short period of time can produce enough corn to feed the entire world population with excess.

(but how? – by sowing and re-sowing)

Sparingly **φειδομένως pheidomenos**, a tight fist or strong grip. To squeeze or to strangle what is in the hand.

Bountifully **εὐλογία eulogia**, *yoo-log-ee'-ah*; to pronounce a commendation, a blessing, a kind benefit. a eulogy of blessing.

**By Sowing We Are Asking;
He gives when we ask and He gives with the end in sight**

John 15:7-8

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Sowing Seed Looks Silly on the Surface

What Paul is saying is this, that the closest analogy to "giving" that we have in life is like the farmer going out to sow his crop. *Giving is more than the giving away of your money or resources, it is a process that will return something to you as well*, like a farmer who sows seed in the spring. When he goes out to do this, it appears as though he is throwing it away. He scatters seed out upon the ground, and he cannot gather it up again. *It looks as though it is lost to him, and it is. He actually has to give up control of it, and the use of it. He throws it away into the ground where it deteriorates, rots, and seemingly is lost. But it is not lost, that is the point.* Paul says it is not gone. Let it fulfill its appointed process and the farmer will have it back again and much more besides. That is what God designed. The return is proportionate to the sowing. The analogy is clear. *If you give just a little bit, then what you get will be a little and that's ok if that works for you. But if you give abundantly, then what you get will be abundant also and that's ok if that works for you.*

On the Physical Side of Things Church – Time is Running Out – Or

James 4:14b

For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

John 9:4

I must work the works of Him who sent Me **while it is day**; **the night is coming** when no one can work.

James 5:7-8

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

John 17:1-26

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. :6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world.

They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. **7** Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. **8** For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. **:9** "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. **10** And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. **11** Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. **12** While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. **13** But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. **14** I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **15** I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. **16** They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **17** Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. **18** As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. **19** And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. **:20** "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; **21** that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. **22** And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: **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. **:24** "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. **25** O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. **26** And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

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

Come Forward for Prayer

End of Study

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