

GRACE FOR THE GIVER

Advent, part 3

2 Corinthians 8:9, ESV

David Platt, MBC Pastor-Teacher | December 16, 2018

THE COMING OF JESUS RADICALLY CHANGES OUR PERSPECTIVE ON GIVING.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1 - 9

“We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints – and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything – In faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6 - 15

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, ‘He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.’ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!”



1. FOLLOWERS OF JESUS GIVE OUT OF THE OVERFLOW OF GRACE.

We give willingly.

- We give because of the abundance of God's generosity.
- We give according to and beyond our ability.

We give generously.

- Generous giving to God leads to greater glory for God and greater joy for us.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8 - 11

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God."

- God gives enough for us and excess for others.

We give cheerfully.

- We are not forced by God to give.
- We are freed by God to give,

2. FOLLOWERS OF JESUS GIVE AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE GOSPEL.

- We sacrifice our rights for others.
- We spend our resources on others.

3. FOLLOWERS OF JESUS GIVE TO PROMOTE THANKSGIVING TO GOD.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:12

"For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God."



2 CORINTHIANS 9:13 - 14

“By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you.”

- Giving unites the people of God.
- Giving exalts the goodness of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15

“Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!”

