

How Does God View Money?

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Main idea: The grace of God is what motivates Christians to live a generous lifestyle which ultimately produces thanksgiving and the worship of God.

Key Verses: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ” (9:7 ESV)

Key Principles:

- The sacrifice of Jesus should radically change our perspective on generosity and giving.
- Reluctant or guilt-driven gifts are not a sign of generosity at all.
- A generous lifestyle produces a life of freedom, simplicity, joy, fruitfulness and purpose.
- Christian generosity can seem risky, but our security is in the knowledge that God provides all things and holds onto us no matter the circumstances.
- True, grace-driven, cheerful giving is fulfilling and contagious.
- God does not “pay us back” when we give, rather the most important “gain” from generosity is a closer walk with Jesus Christ and a greater union of your life with His.

Discussion:

1. What words and illustrations are used to describe the attitude about giving that God will honor? In what ways will He honor it?
2. What does this passage list as the outcomes or fruit of Christian generosity? In what ways do we misunderstand these outcomes? Why?
3. What does this passage tell us is God’s purpose in providing the giver everything he or she needs to be generous?
4. Do you believe that giving is a tangible expression of your trust in God? Why or why not?
5. What giving experience has taught you the most about God? Do you see money as a tool for God or a tool for you?
6. Besides your financial resources, what other gifts should we use for God’s glory? How do we see others using these gifts in our church? Community? Around the world?

Prayer:

- Reflect on the generous gift of Jesus Christ taking your place under God’s wrath.
- Pray:
 - o That God would help you to respond generously to His great gift of salvation.
 - o That generosity would be a blessing to experience and not a burden to bare.
 - o That your greatest desire would be to build His kingdom and not your own.

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- I. Give with a proper attitude. 9:6-7**
 - 1. You are affected by your offering. 9:6
 - 2. You are responsible for your offering. 9:7

- II. Give with a proper motivation. 9:8-11**
 - 1. Give because of God's grace. 9:8-10
 - 2. Give because of a generous heart. 9:11

- III. Give with a proper focus. 9:12-15**
 - 1. Be thankful to God. 9:12
 - 2. Bring glory to God. 9:13-14
 - 3. Be sacrificial for God. 9:15

NEXT WEEK:
How Can I Share My Story?
Acts 26:1-29