

Giving

Some pastors are afraid to speak on the subject of giving. Maybe they think that people will get the wrong impression that the church is only in it for the money. Or maybe they think it is none of their business what other people do with their money. Yet, in light of all the Bible has to say about giving, how can a pastor remain silent on the subject?

Take 2 Corinthians 9.6-8 for example. These few verses have a lot to teach us about giving. First, this passage teaches us to give *generously*. Verse 6 says, “Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” I’m glad God does not give sparingly to us. Just think of his greatest gift to us: the Lord Jesus Christ, his Son, who died on the cross for our sins. In light of God’s generosity to us, we should be generous with our money, giving sacrificially to the work of the Lord. Remember, it all belongs to God anyway; thus, we are only stewards over the money he has entrusted to us. And since God wants us to be generous with it, then generous we must be.

Secondly, the Apostle Paul tells us in these verses to give *willingly*. He says in verse 7, “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” A cheerful giver! Is that what you are? Is that what I am? When we take up the offering during the morning service, it should be a time of celebration. I’ve heard a lot of people say “amen” during sermons and songs, but I’ve never heard anyone say “amen” when the offering was announced. Yet, what a privilege it is to give to the Lord’s work. When we give to the church, we are partnering with the Lord in ministry. We are contributing to people’s eternal destiny. Thus, we should give willingly and cheerfully, not begrudgingly.

Finally, this passage teaches us to give *expectantly*. Verse 8 says, “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” What this verse is saying is that God will take care of those who give to his work. He will make all grace abound to you so that you will have all your needs met plus have enough left over to bless others. Thus, when we give we should do so expectantly. We should expect God to bless us. The prophet Malachi said, “‘Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out

so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it” (Mal 3.10). As the old saints used to say, “You just can’t outgive the Lord.” It’s still true today.