

Principles Of Stewardship: Part 7
“The Purposes, Policy, and Promise of Giving”
2 Corinthians 8:10-21; 9:6-11
Sunday, July 28, 2024

2 Corinthians 8:10-21

And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. ¹¹So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. ¹²For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. ¹³For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness ¹⁴your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. ¹⁵As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.

¹⁶But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. ¹⁷For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest he is going to you of his own accord. ¹⁸With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel. ¹⁹And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will. ²⁰We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, ²¹for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And 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. ⁹As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰He 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. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

I. Three (3) PURPOSES for giving, that are laid-out for us in the Scriptures...

Purpose #1— to meet the needs of other Christians

2 Corinthians 8:12-15

Purpose #2— to help bring people to saving faith in Christ—spreading the Gospel

Luke 16:8,9 (Dishonest Manager)

“The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of **unrighteous wealth**, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.”

Purpose #3— to help provide for those who minister to us

Galatians 6:6

Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.

II. The Policy for giving...

Making sure that the money that we give will be handled honorably.

2 Corinthians 8:18-21

III. The Promise of Giving (This is REVIEW)

3 short points...

POINT #1: We determine the return on our investment.

2 Corinthians 9:6

Luke 6:38 (Jesus)

“...[G]ive, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

POINT #2 (Last Week): We determine the amount of our investment.

2 Corinthians 9:7

POINT #3: You and I can never out-give God.

2 Corinthians 9:8-11

Conclusion:

+ “Naturalism” vs. Trusting God to work “inside the box”

+ **2 Corinthians 9:10** (The goal of Stewardship is to grow me in righteousness)