



## Session 8:

### IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE!

**2 Corinthians 8:1-15**, “And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup> In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup> they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. <sup>5</sup> And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. <sup>6</sup> So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. <sup>7</sup> But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. <sup>8</sup> I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup> 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 through his poverty might become rich. <sup>10</sup> And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. <sup>11</sup> Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. <sup>12</sup> For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. <sup>13</sup> Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. <sup>14</sup> At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, <sup>15</sup> as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”

**One of the promises in the Word of God...is the promise of “the giver will be blessed.”**

**The three (3) “Gs” that define true giving.**

**We need to....No, we must GIVE:**

(1) **Generously**—Deuteronomy 15:7, “If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tight fisted toward your poor

*brother.”.....Proverbs 31:20.... “She opens her hands to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.”*

*Proverbs 22:9, “A generous man will himself be blessed.”*

*Romans 12:6-8, “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us....if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously....”*

**(2) Graciously—With the grace that was given to you.**

*You are to be gracious as God was gracious to you.... Romans*

*5:17, “....we have received God’s abundant provision of grace..”*

*Paul stated in Philippians 1:7, “All of you share in God’s grace with me.”*

**If God can give grace graciously...If Jesus gave his life willingly...and graciously...why should we who long to be like Jesus, not want to be gracious in our giving?**

*“It is by grace you have been saved....” (Ephesians 2:5)*

**(3) Gladly—“Serve the Lord with gladness...” (Psalm 100:2)**

*“God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor. 9:7 (One that gives gladly and joyfully).*

*One of my favorite cards that was ever given to me....was the one from my grandmother right after I was saved (13 years old).*

*“Congratulations...your decision to accept Jesus was the best one you have or ever will make.*

*Gun-Gun and I were glad...glad...glad when we heard the news that you had given your heart to Jesus.”*

**If you want to open the floodgates of heaven into your life....yes, your life...all you have to do is to learn to give as an act of love and obedience to the King of Glory.**

*Malachi 3:10, “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.”*

**Do you want the King of Heaven to answer your prayers...to invite you as a special guest into the throne room of heaven....THEN, GIVE WITH A HUMBLE HEART!**

*Proverbs 18:16, “A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.”*

**Everything we have has been loaned to us to see if we can increase the value of our gift! (Read Matthew 25:14-30, the Parable of the Talents)**

*Our children....*

*Our spouse...*

*Our friends...*

Our Home...  
Our Things...  
Our Job....  
Our Money.

**What have you done for the Lord lately? Do you expect anything in return?**

**There is a promise....accept it and learn to give with a generous heart because—**

*“For if you give, you will get (“receive” might be a better word, GEC)! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give—large or small—will be used to measure what is given back to you.” Luke 6:38 (LB)*

**One of the desires that lay closest to Paul’s heart besides being able to share the gospel of Jesus with all mankind (Jews and Gentiles) was the collection that he was organizing for the Church of Jerusalem.**

**The Church of Jerusalem...was the Mother Church. The Mother Church was pastored by Jesus’ brother, James.**

**This Church was POOR.**

**Why?**

- \* *Made up mainly of Jews who accepted Jesus as the Messiah.*
- \* *When they accepted Jesus, the Jewish community would not hire them or do business with them if they were in business.*
- \* *“The Way” was a stench in their nostrils.*
- \* *It was difficult for the Messianic Jews to buy or sell...in this “very traditionally Jewish” town.*

**Paul’s desire was that all the Gentile Churches should remember and help that Church which was their mother in the faith.**

Paul reminds the Corinthians (Church at Corinth) in this passage of their duty and urges them to give generously and graciously.

**Why do you think Paul was so adamant for the Church learning the meaning and importance of “Giving with a Grateful and Cheerful Heart”?**

**Paul uses five (5) arguments to appeal to them to give worthily.**

**(1) He cites the example of others**

Paul tells them how generous the Macedonian Churches had been (they were poor and in trouble but they gave all they had...far more than anyone could have expected).

**Remember...it is not always the wealthy who are the most generous; often those who have least to give are the most ready to give.**

Someone said, "It is the poor who help the poor because they know what poverty is like."

**(2) He cites the example of Jesus Christ.**

***For Paul, the sacrifice of Jesus did not begin on the cross.***

***It did not begin with his birth.***

***It began in heaven when he was willing (consented) to leave glory with the Father and come to earth.***

**(3) He cites their own past record.**

The Corinthians have been foremost in practically everything. Can they lag behind in this?...Such a tremendous opportunity to bless others.

**(4) He stresses the necessity of putting feelings into action.**

The Corinthians were the first to "feel" the need of the Mother Church...and the appeal for help. However, feelings now must turn into actions.

A fine desire that never turns into a fine deed, is a sad and frustrating thing.

**The tragedy of life so often is, not that we have no high impulses for living for God, but that we fail to turn them into actions.**

**(5) He reminds them that life has a strange way of evening things up  
(Balancing out the costs vs. the impact on lives).**

Far more often than not we find that it is measured to us with the same measure as we measure to others. (If our children very seldom hear us tell them that we love them and show it by time and support, then there will be a time when we will long for the words whispered in our ear as we lie on our beds at night..."Daddy, I love you!"

Don't wait to love...or your heart's song will be forever in your memory...Wasted years, wasted years---oh, how foolish (Words of Song below).

**No gift can be in any real sense a gift unless the giver gives with it a bit of himself.**

**That is why personal giving is always the highest kind...and,**

**That is the kind of giving of which Jesus Christ is the supreme example!**

## Wasted Years - Gospel Song

*Have you wandered along on life's pathway?  
Have you lived without love a life of tears?  
Have you searched for the great hidden meaning...  
Or, is your life filled with long wasted years?*

*Wasted years, Wasted years... Oh, how foolish...  
As you walk on in darkness and fears.  
Turn around, turn around... God is calling.  
He's calling you from a life of wasted years.*

*Search for wisdom and seek understanding...  
There is Someone Who knows and always hears.  
Give it up; Give it up... the load your bearing;  
You can't go on in a life of wasted years.*

*Wasted years, Wasted years... Oh, how foolish...  
As you walk on in darkness and fears.  
Turn around, turn around... God is calling.  
He's calling you from a life of wasted years.*

*Life is short... Don't Waste it!*