

YOUR PROFESSED SUBJECTION UNTO THE GOSPEL

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6 – 10:4



~ Our previous two reports from our Spiritual Safari have examined the proper, correct and complete way to give of our money in the work of the Lord, Biblically, and strictly according to Scripture. This will be the third and final report on this subject – and I am going to make it rather brief. Our last two reports were extremely difficult to accept and digest, but I believe this section of the Word of God is worthy of proper presentation; particularly for the new believer who is wrongly being taught that they must tithe in order to be blessed. If you have not read our last two reports, I highly suggest you go back and do so now. These lessons in second Corinthians have brought me the most venomous, biting, sarcastic, insulting, and flagrantly profane attacks anyone could possibly imagine. Well, I stand by every word I have allowed the Holy Spirit to speak through me to you on this matter of giving; giving is a grace — and that is all-important to note....

IX

⁶ But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

⁹ (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

¹⁰ Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;

14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.

15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

~ I hope you have read this section of Scripture carefully before reading this report. Paul, when he spoke to the elders of the Ephesians, made a remarkable statement by saying, “... *I have showed you all things, how that laboring you ought to support the weak and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, how He said, ‘it is more blessed to give than to receive.’*” Now, when Paul says, “... *how He said...*” It contains the connotation that this was a very familiar quote from Jesus. These people were accustomed to hearing this – and I think Paul was accustomed to repeating it – and I think the Lord Jesus used this phrase constantly and habitually in His earthly ministry. In fact, I’m sure of it; I think Jesus used the expression so often it was as common as hearing “... *have a nice day*” is today. Well, “... *it is more blessed to give than to receive*” is a trite bromide overly-used today – but it is practiced almost never. This saying will make a hypocrite out of a Christian quicker than two shakes of a lamb’s tail.

“*Blessed*” in this connection means to be happy — satisfied with life, friends. It will make us more happy to give than it will to receive, you may be absolutely sure. That is the real test – and it is an acid test – for you and me right now. How does it affect you when you give money to the Lord’s work? How does it make you feel? Do you ever give to a proper, correct

and complete Bible teaching? Do you sow sparingly, or do you sow generously? Well, whatever way you sow – that shall you also reap!

See, giving out the Word of God in sound doctrine as this safari does is a wonderful thing. It is a privilege to me to pour out my life for each of you readers. For the few who have supported me in this endeavor, I pray that you are reaping abundantly – and you know who you are – and so does the Lord – and I thank Him for you.

Poor practices in unstructured giving is the reason some of us are so abjectly poor today, too. Being tight-fisted when dealing with the Lord's work isn't going to get us anywhere with God, friends. You can feed every little orphan baby on the planet today and they'll be hungry again tomorrow. On the other hand, he who drinks from this spiritual water and eats from the Living Bread of Christ Jesus in this Bible teaching will never thirst or be hungry again! See how that works? Maybe you don't – because only His sheep hear His voice. If you cannot hear God speaking to you now – or if you refuse to read and study His Word – then, guess what? – You're just not one of His – because that would be impossible.

Verse seven asks: what do you really think you should give deep down in your heart? Whatever you think the answer to that question is – that is what you ought to be giving. The real test is to give cheerfully and not grudgingly. This means God doesn't want one penny from you if you want to keep it all for yourself. If you are giving out of a "necessity" in thinking you have to tithe, then your giving is not accepted by God; and He is not going to use it, nor is He going to bless you for said giving. I think you should support your church, but God doesn't say that. God says, ".... if you can't give cheerfully - don't bother." The happiest part of a worship service should be the offering service. We've gotten very far away from that today, without question. I think we should always stand up and sing "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" BEFORE the offering – so that people can get in the right attitude of giving joyfully — and so they will all have a chance to reach easily for their wallets. No, I'm not kidding.

God will bless us for giving Biblically – but being blessed does *NOT* mean material possessions. Most people give a dollar and expect God to give

them back five; well, that's pure foolishness. All we are promised down here as Christians are "*all spiritual blessings!*" This is a tremendous section of the Word of God that teaches the church we must take care of our own. Those who have the means should be willing to share with those who do not have as much; particularly sharing with those who have dedicated their entire lives to teaching the Word of God properly, correctly and completely. Sometimes, that sharing means the gift of hospitality. I know a few outstanding Christians in my own church who have a way of opening their homes – and they make people feel at home doing it.

Others have a very fine way of inviting others in and feeding them almost every day. However, those being housed and fed *MUST* be taken to church; and they *MUST* be willing to serve in the church. Quite frankly, I get a little weary of those who constantly make up excuses not to go to church. Some are habitually late. They never attend Sunday School and *NEVER – EVER* attend the mid-week Bible study. The Gospel is not witnessed that way – you can just write that down. If you aren't in church at all the right times then you lack fellowship and you are simply being disobedient to God. Something else you can just write down: God says, "*go to church.*" If you disagree, then you are wrong.

Giving is a grace. Is there someone who is thanking God for your giving? There should be. We are to give as we are able. And we are to give joyfully. But, even so, we'll never give like God gives. The way God gives is unspeakable. Our giving will *ALWAYS* be "*speaking*." God gave us His Son Who died for our sins; and not just to die, but to be brutally butchered so that you and I might have eternal life. Christ made His soul a sacrifice for our sin; and He did it for the *JOY* that was set before Him. Think about that; turn it all over in your mind a few times. Don't try to bring our glorious and marvelous Savior down to a low level of superstar or hero. Christ is the bright Morning Star. The Lord Jesus Christ is God's unspeakable gift to this world – to me and you. That is the norm; and apex of giving. No one could go beyond that....

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¹ Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

~ Chapter ten abruptly changes the subject yet again. The first seven chapters of this epistle concerned the comfort of God in the ministry; chapters eight and nine taught giving and, here, in chapter ten, Paul presents his own personal call to the ministry. This entire epistle has revealed the great love and humanity Paul had for the missionary efforts of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. We're going to get to know Paul like we never have before as we close out this Book of second Corinthians; and this chapter is the 'vindication and the authenticity' of Paul's apostleship.

Verse one is Paul speaking of the meekness and gentleness of Christ. When Jesus was on this earth, He was a carpenter. Construction just doesn't happen to be an industry of meek and gentle men, my friends. It is certainly one of the lowest places in the secular hierarchy, also; and Jesus took that place so we might be exalted to the highest. Well, Jesus was meek and gentle, and that caused everyone to ask, "*.... isn't this the carpenter's Son?*" The problem today is that most people try to bring Jesus back down to a low level in the carpenter's shop; but Jesus isn't there – He's the Man in the Glory at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven right *NOW* as I type and as you read. The Lord Jesus is the glorified Christ, friends – make a note of that.

Well, Paul came to Corinth, and he wasn't chargeable to anyone. He didn't want to be dependent, so he went out and made tents for a living. That caused the Corinthians to say, "*.... oh, my, this isn't some great apostle of God.*" They relegated Paul to a simple tent maker. That made Paul an ordinary man, but it also made him an extraordinary apostle. The real proof for any man comes from his ability to teach the Word of God with wisdom, judgment and discernment irrespective of his circumstances. Paul looked like any other man out there in the marketplace, I'm sure. That made the Corinthians question the bold writing of Paul and the way he charged them. Certainly they wondered who Paul thought he was. That's how almost everyone feels about the man who teaches the Bible; they try to bring that man down; but I digress.

See, the method of Satan today is *NOT* to attack the Scriptures – but the devil attacks the man of God who actually believes God and who makes an honest attempt to teach the Word of God. If Satan can discredit the man, then the devil wins; and that’s exactly what the devil tried to do with Paul. If you teach the Word of God properly, correctly and completely there are going to be people who just don’t like it – and some of them may be right there in your own church. They will absolutely attempt to crucify you while they tell others they believe the Word of God. They usually carry the biggest Bible under their arms that they can find; but they don’t really believe any of it — because they have *NO IDEA* what’s even in there. They never study the Bible, but they hate the man that does. If you don’t play up to that crowd, you’ll find yourself in dangerous waters. That’s the basis Paul faced this church in Corinth on....

² But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds) ~

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