

Homework #12 - *A Community of Cheerful Giving*  
II Corinthians 8:16 - 9:15

*"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."--II Corinthians 9:7*

**Day One:**

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read II Corinthians 8:16-9:15. What are the key words in this passage?

**Contrasts in Corinthians:** What contrasts can you find in this section?

2. What attitude did Titus share with Paul? (8:16)

How did Titus receive this concern?

How did Titus feel about collecting financial gifts from the Corinthians? (8:17)

What does this tell you about Titus' attitude toward giving?

How did Paul feel about Titus? (8:23a)

3. Who else is coming and what are their "credentials"? (8:18-19, 22, 23)
4. Who is watching how Paul handles the money? (8:21)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

5. Why do you think it was important for Paul to not collect this money as an individual? (8:20-21)
6. What was the ultimate reason they were careful in how they collected the offering?

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7. How were the Corinthians to respond to this arrival of people who came for their offering? (8:24)

How is giving a "proof of our love" for Jesus and others?

Who else will notice the Corinthians' response?

8. Why do you think mutual accountability is vital to serving Christ and others?

Why might a person want to serve solo?

9. How does Jesus tell us we should give, in Matthew 6:1-4?

What motive is Jesus guarding against?

How can this value co-exist with Paul's desire for openness in handling finances? Or, what is Paul not saying, in light of Jesus' words?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

10. Have you ever been a Titus--someone who collected funds or resources for another person or group? Was it difficult to ask others for help? What can you learn from Titus' example?

## **Day Two**

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read II Corinthians 9:1-5. Why does Paul say there is no need to write them about giving? (9:3)

What effect has the Corinthians' enthusiasm had on others? (8:26)

2. What is Paul's reason for sending "the brothers"?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. What are Paul's expectations of this church? (9:2)

Why do you think he lets them know that He is proud of them?

What effect do leaders' expectations have on those they lead?

Is it important for us to tell those we lead and love what they are doing well? Why?

4. What is the relationship between their readiness and the quality of their gift? (9:5)

If they are unprepared, what effect will this have on their giving?

5. Read Proverbs 21:5. What does this verse say about planning versus haste?

How would you describe a "diligent" person?

Read Proverbs 14:22. How do we find love?

How would you define "faithfulness"?

6. Do you think it is important to have a plan for giving? Explain:

If we do not plan to give, what effect will this have on our resources of time, energy and money?

What does being prepared to give say about the priority of sharing with others?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

7. Do you have a deliberate, purposeful way of giving to the needs around you? What might you have to give in these areas:

Time:

Energy (abilities):

Money (including possessions):

What have you learned from this passage about being more intentional in sharing what you have with others?

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**Day Three**

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-9. What is the relationship between sowing and reaping?
2. How should we give? (9:7)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. How would you describe a "cheerful giver"?

Write down all the motivations to give from this passage:

4. Why should we not give under compulsion?

Is this really giving to the Lord?

Read Malachi 1:6-13, God's rebuke to the priests for offering blemished animals. What was the priests' attitude toward giving, in 1:13a?

5. Read Malachi 3:8-12. How does this passage relate to II Corinthians 9:8?
6. Why can we afford to be generous, according to this passage? Write a paraphrase of II Corinthians 9:8, putting this verse in your own words:
7. Read Psalms 112:1-9. Paul quotes verse 9 in describing God's generosity towards us, in II Corinthians 9:9. What does God promise the generous person?
8. What do these verses say about giving:

--Luke 6:38

--Proverbs 11:25

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

8. Is it possible to out-give God? What have you learned today about being a "cheerful giver"?

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### **Day Four**

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read II Corinthians 9:10-11. Who ultimately provides everything we need? (9:10)

What will God do for us if we share what He gives to us? (9:10)

2. What effect does God's generosity have on us? (9:11)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. Read Mark 6:35-44. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do in verse 37?

What did Jesus tell them to do next?

What did the disciples have to work with?

How did Jesus begin this miraculous feeding, in verse 41?

What was the end result in verse 42?

How is this story also a good illustration of II Corinthians 9:10-11?

4. What do you think it means that God will "enlarge the harvest of your righteousness" (9:10b)? Re-read II Corinthians 9:8 for more insight.

What kinds of rewards do people usually seek in this life?

What reward might we be seeking in Matthew 6:1-2?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

5. What is the greatest blessing God could give you right now? What do you want most for those you love? How does this lesson change what you want most for yourself and others?

### **Day Five**

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 9:12-15. What is another benefit of giving, besides just meeting the material needs? (9:12-13)

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2. What will those who receive the gifts also give? (9:14)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. Why do you think giving is an expression of "obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ"? Or why must giving go with our words that we believe in Jesus?
4. Read I Chronicles 29:6-13. How is worship connected to giving in this passage?

Why do you think our giving causes others to thank God and not just us?

5. Read the following verses and write what you learn about worship:

--II Kings 17:36

--I Chronicles 16:29

--Psalm 95:6-7

--Revelation 4:9-11

How would you describe worship?

6. How is prayer described in Psalm 141:2 and Revelation 5:8?

Why is prayer also a form of worship and sacrifice?

7. What has God given to us? (9:15)

What is an "indescribable gift"?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

8. Spend time remembering all the gifts God has given to you, worshipping and thanking Him for each one. Especially thank God for His indescribable gift in Jesus!