

## **SUBJECT :**

The Gift Of Giving

## **BIBLE BASIS: Lesson Scripture:**

2Corinthians 8:1-15

## **BIBLE TRUTH:**

Giving is a gift believers have to bless other and be blessed. Luke 6:38

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2Cor. 8:9

## **Lesson Aim:**

To understand that giving is what God has commanded believers to do to balance the motivation to be fruitful, multiply, replenish, subdue, and dominate. Gain was a command given to Adam from the beginning . Gen. 1:28

# Introduction

- The saints throughout Jerusalem were suffering great poverty and needed help badly. This is what this lesson is about: meeting the desperate need of fellow believers and human beings who were being threatened with starvation and death. Rom. 15:26-27
- Christians could not depend on the government or insurance companies to meet their needs. They could only depend on God. In our lesson today we learn about God's insurance policy for his people. His plan is implemented by fellow believers helping each other through tough times. Act. 4:32-35,
- People who *have* more than they need should be helping and giving. People who think they don't have enough to give should reconsider. The church of Macedonia is an example to us all on giving according to the Word of God. They didn't have much to give but they gave out their needs because they wanted to let their brothers in Jerusalem know they cared about them. Gal. 6:10
- If we wait until we have all we want before we give to God, we will never give very much. Indeed, giving is not a financial decision; it is a spiritual decision. Financially speaking, it makes no sense at all to give away hard-earned money. But if we believe as Jesus did that it is more blessed to give than to receive we will give generously. Act 20:35

# The Giving Churches Of Macedonia

- **2 Cor. 8:1-2** Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; [2] How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.
- The first thing Paul wanted the Corinthian church to know is the spirit of the Macedonians. At one time, the Macedonian province had been known for its natural resources. But down through the centuries the area had been ravaged by war, and Rome had stripped it of its wealth. Because of this the churches of the area were somewhat poor in material wealth, but, were extremely wealthy in the grace of God.
- **They gave to help others, and gave liberally.** They gave despite terrible trial and deep poverty. When they accepted Christ and took their stand for Him, they were heavily persecuted. 1Thes. 1:6-7
- However, note that the believers were filled with an “abundance of joy.” They joyed and rejoiced in all that God was doing for them and was going to do for them. These saints responded to their trials and tribulation according to the Word of God. Rom. 5:1-5
- The point is this: they knew the Lord and they were committed to living for the Lord. Therefore, when someone needed help, they were ready to help. Matt. 20:28
- They gave liberally. The word “liberality” means singleness of mind, sincerely, with an open and free heart.

# They Gave Over And Beyond

- [3] For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; [4] Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints [5] And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God..
- Paul says, the churches of Macedonia not only gave out of their resources, but, they gave beyond their ability. They willingly gave: no special appeal had to be made; no pressure had to be executed. They gave insistently, begging for the privilege to share.
- Their fellow believers in Jerusalem were in need, and they wanted the privilege of fellowshiping with them by giving to them. They were giving to people they had never seen before.
- Note how giving is said to be a means of fellowshiping with others.
- How was their secret in giving? They gave themselves to the Lord first. What it means is this: these dear believers gave all they were and had to the Lord. They used this occasion, the occasion of an offering to *rededicate* their lives and possessions to Christ.
- The example of the Macedonian church needs to be studied by the churches of every generation. They clearly demonstrate the spirit that is absolutely essential for reaching the world for Christ. Matt. 25:35-36, Isaiah 58:7

# Titus Was To Receive The Offering

- **[6] Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.**
- Sometime earlier the Corinthian church had begun to take up an offering for the poor churches of Judea, but something had happened that caused the church to stop the project. Just what cause they to put off the collection is not actually known, but it was probably all the trouble and problems covered in the letters of 1 and 2 Corinthians.
- Since the church had experienced revival, it was now time for the offering project to be completed. Thus, Titus was to go ahead of Paul to Corinth to prepare the Corinthians for Paul's arrival. Titus had two objectives one was to deliver this letter and encourage the Corinthians to have their offering for Jerusalem ready to go. That way Paul can take it along with him to Jerusalem. 2Cor. 9:3-5
- The grace of giving is to be completed in you. The Corinthians were to financially support the Lord's work, the very ministry of God Himself. This glorious privilege is clearly seen when it is remembered that God has not given to angels the privilege of supporting His work; God has committed this grace, this privilege only to men. Act 10:1-6, 9:1-6

# Giving Is A Spiritual Gift

- [7] Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also [8] I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.
- Paul's says, since other graces abound in you, let the grace of giving abound in you as well. The Corinthians had an abundance of spiritual gifts that involved...faith, utterance, knowledge, diligence.
- Because the church was so strong in these gifts, they needed to abound in the gift of giving as well. Giving to others just as important as the others. Rom. 12:13, 1 Tim. 6:18, Heb. 13:16
- Note that Paul does not command the Corinthians to give. If giving is forced or coerced, it benefits nothing; it does not please God. God is pleased only with gifts that are willingly and cheerfully given. 2Cor. 9:7
- Giving must be based upon love for the Lord Jesus. love for the ministry, love for the lost and needy. John 13:35, 15:12
- In the case of the Corinthians, they had the dynamic example of the Macedonians.
- Note: Love cannot be known unless it is demonstrated by deeds of compassion and giving. Matt. 22:39, Eph. 5:2

# Jesus Is All Our Example Of Giving

- [9] For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.
- We should know the example of the Lord Jesus Christ. Above all others, Jesus Christ demonstrates not only that we are to give, but how we are to give.
- The Lord Jesus Christ was rich. He was the Son of God, possessing the very nature and being and fullness of God. John 1:1-3; Phil. 2:6
- The Lord Jesus Christ became poor. This refers to the incarnation of Jesus Christ, that is, to His condescension or humiliation. He who was...God became an humble man...the Lord took on flesh and blood...the Holy God took the place of the lowest...the Sovereign Lord became the subject...the Beloved became the rejected...the Perfect One became the Sacrifice for sin...the Life became the Substitute for death. Phil. 2:7-8
- Because He became poor, we can become rich. We can actually become sons and daughters of God and live with Him forever and ever in the new heavens and earth 2Cor. 6:17-18
- The point is this: since Christ willingly sacrificed so much to help us, we ought to sacrifice to help those in need. Just as Christ gave everything for us when we were in desperate need, so we are to give everything to meet the needs of others. 1John 3:11-12
-

# Paul The Spiritual Advisor On Missions

- [10] And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago. [11] Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have
- As mentioned above, the Corinthians had undertaken the mission project of meeting the needs of the poor churches in Judea, but they had backed off the project when divisiveness had reared its ugly head in the church. 2 Cor. 8:6-7
- Now that they had experienced revival, Paul gives his advice: pick up the mission project again. “This is expedient for you”: expedient and beneficial for you personally and for your ministry. Recommitting yourselves to missions will stir God to bless the church. Is missions that important to the growth of the church.? Luke. 10:29-37
- Note that the church had been forward, that is, zealous in undertaking the mission project about a year before. Since the revival of the saints in the Corinthian church, they should be even more zealous to launch a ministry of missions for the Lord., Gal. 6:2,10

# Giving Is A Personal Thing

**[12] For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.**

- On one occasion Jesus and His disciples were watching people drop money into an offering urn in the temple. As people gave their gifts, he noticed one elderly woman who could offer only two small mites worth a few pennies. This woman contribution was greater than all the others because she had given all that she had. Mark 12:41-44

- The right attitude is to give readily and willingly. Four quick points are made in these two verses, points that give clear directions on missions to any church that is willing to listen. Note: Paul is no longer giving advice; he is now charging the church to give itself to missions and to undertake this particular mission project.

- Give yourselves to missions. This is implied or understood.

- Paul is dealing with one mission project, but underlying the whole discussion is the absolute necessity for a permanent commitment to missions. After a mission need has been met, there is always another need to meet. The world reels under the weight of sin and disease, corruption and death, hunger, poverty and ignorance and homelessness. Literally thousands die prematurely and without Christ every day die because no one cared enough to help them. The call of missions is the constant call of Christ: Matt 20:28, 28:19-20

# Every Believer Must Play Their Part

[13] For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: [14] But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: [15] As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.

The next challenge is to meet the needs of one another—equally. It is critical to note that these verses are not dealing with possessions or property, not with what a person has, but with *needs*.

One person's need is not to be eased while another person has a need.

Each need is to be equally met. This is an explosive principle, for it goes contrary to what society practices. It eliminates the hoarding and keeping of goods beyond our needs. God wants the needs of the starving and lost masses met. The only way they can be met is by giving all we are and have *beyond what is needed* to take care of our own families. Gal. 6:10

The Old Testament Scripture supports this principle. When God miraculously fed Israel with the manna from the sky, the people were to gather only what they needed. If they gathered too much and attempted to hoard and put it back, it spoiled overnight. If a person was unable to gather enough due to some illness or inability, his need was either met by the help of others or by God Himself. Ex.16:16-20