

Giving Thanks: Giving Thanks for God's Unspeakable Gift

2 Corinthians 8:16-9:15

December 8, 2019

Characteristics for Those Who Steward Financial Resources in the Church (8:16-24):

1. Men who demonstrate a servant's heart (16-17).
2. Men who have a reputation for reaching the lost (18).
3. Men who have been chosen by the church (19a).
4. Men who value transparency (19b-21).
5. Men who have proven themselves to be diligent (22).
6. Men who are commissioned by the church (23-24).

When You Give Generously as God Gave His Son:

1. Your generosity will inspire the generosity of others (9:1-5).
 - a. The Corinthian's pledge inspired the Macedonian's sacrifice (1-2).
 - b. The Macedonian's sacrifice inspired the Corinthians to follow through with their pledge (3-5).
 - c. Application: You never know what God will do with your generosity. God may use your generosity to inspire others to grow in generosity, who may one day inspire you to greater generosity!
2. Your generosity will invite the blessing of God (9:6-11).
 - a. You will reap God's blessing in proportion to your sowing (6).
 - i. When we hold back more than we should, we rob ourselves of the blessing of God – "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty" (Proverbs 11:24).
 - ii. When we sow bountifully, the more fruit that will abound to our account (Philippians 4:17).
 - b. You will reap God's blessings when you sow with a cheerful heart (7).
 - i. Proverbs 22:9 "He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed."
 - ii. Proverbs 11:25 "The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."
 - c. You will reap God's blessings in every area of your life (8-11).
 - i. When you open the door to God's grace in your life, it has a way of taking over more and more areas of your life (8).
 - ii. When you give to others, you receive a gift that no one can take from you, righteousness (9).
3. Your generosity will minister to others (9:12-15).
 - a. Your gift meets the needs of other brothers and sisters in Christ (12).
 - i. Galatians 6:20 "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."
 - ii. 1 Timothy 6:17-18 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;"
 - b. Your gift brings glory to God (13-15).
 - i. Your generosity will cause others to glorify God (13).
 - ii. Your generosity will cause others to rejoice in God's grace at work in you (14).
 - iii. Your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God for His unspeakable gift (15)!

Conclusion:

1. Does your generosity inspire others to follow your example?
2. Are you enjoying the blessings that accompany generosity?
3. How does your generosity reflect on your appreciation for God's unspeakable gift?