

Sunday, September 27, 2009—The Liberality Grace Produces

Introduction

- Last week our study was titled Who Much Money Should We Give God.
- I began by telling you that there are basically two approaches people use to talk about this subject.
 - Talk about it constantly and make it the only measure of faith and blessing. Despite the current economic downturn the prosperity teachers have not back off their message. If anything they have stepped up their rhetoric.
 - Ignore the issue completely because they don't want to be accused of being a money hungry preacher. This is where I am at.
- My goal last week was to inform you about three different systems of giving found in the Scriptures. In doing so we looked at both the amount of money that was to be given and the motivation for giving.
- Israel's giving under the law.
 - 20 % every year
 - 30 % every third year
 - 23 and 1/3 percent every year.
- Israel's kingdom giving instructions.
 - 100% all their possession were to be sold and laid at the Apostles feet.
- Israel's motivation for giving in either case was fear. Fear that God would punish and curse them for not giving.
 - Malachi 3:8-10
 - Acts 5:11
- II Corinthians 9:6-7—giving under grace.
 - There is no percentage. Our giving is to be planned out and prayerfully considered. Not what you just happen to have in your wallet.
 - You should give God as much as you can and still be cheerful about doing it.

- Always keeping in mind that if we invest in spiritual things we will reap eternal spiritual rewards. Corruptible things will only melt with fervent heat
- Giving under Grace is motivated not by fear of punishment but by love and gratitude for what Christ has already done.
 - II Corinthians 5:14—the love of Christ ought to be our motivator
 - Ephesians 1:3—we have already been blessed richly in Jesus Christ with all spiritual blessings.
- Our money should be focused where our affections are focused.
 - Colossians 3:1-2—far too often our focus is down here on earth. Some of us have roots sunk so deep into this earth we get wipeshed even trying to have a heavenly focus.
- Last week we spend much of our attention on how Israel was supposed to give. This morning I want to look at some things Paul has to say about the subject.

The Liberality Grace Produces

- Grace believers often hid behind grace. Once we understand that we are not under condemnation and don't need to be afraid we use II Corinthians 9:6-7 as an occasion to not give or go to church.
- Can I tell you that if that is your view you have missed the whole point of grace!
- II Corinthians 8:1-5
 - Verse 1—Paul draws the Corinthians' attention to the Grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia.
 - Verse 2—what grace is Paul speaking of? Their financial offering.
- Liberality
 - A particular act of generosity; a donation; a gratuity
 - Largeness of mind; that comprehensiveness of mind which includes other interests besides its own
 - Bountiful

- II Corinthians 8:1-6—the Macedonian saints have bountifully given out of their poverty.
- Grace not only motivates salvation, grace also motivates a walk for the believer that results in service.

Grace Liberality is to Give

- The life of the saints, especially that of a grace believer should be that of service, i.e. a life of giving and not of taking. Where do you ever expect to do anything for free?
- Where would be if Christ had functioned like we often do?
- I Corinthians 2:16—we have all been given the mind of Christ
- Philippians 2:1-4—Jesus Christ gave up everything for you and I so that we could be saved and have a relationship with.
 - II Corinthians 8:9
- II Corinthians 8:7--Paul informs the Corinthians about the liberality of those in Macedonia to motivate them to life of giving.
- The mind of Paul was that at his own cost he would give so that others can hear the gospel.
 - I Corinthians 9:1-14—Paul chose not to exercise his authority in this matter.
 - I Thessalonians 2:8-9—Paul worked in addition to doing the work of the ministry so that he would not be chargeable to any man.
- This is the reason why I work another job. I want to be the least amount chargeable to the saints as possible.
- Every decision regarding my career since the time I was 20 has been made with these truths in mind.
- I am not going to sacrifice and cut corners on the doctrines of grace just to gain a crowd. Rather I believe that we can build a strong grace work that preaches what the Bible teaches.

- We are all sitting here today because some visionary saints have invested their time, talents, and finances into creating a grace work that would stand as a beacon in the community that the truths of grace are still alive and well.
- I challenge you all to catch that same vision. To remember that the local church is the only God's ordained vehicle for doing the work of the ministry.
- If your attitude is that you are just going to come eat donuts listen to message leave and say bless God I don't have to give because I am not under the law then you have missed the whole point of grace.
- II Corinthians 8:6-7—Paul found it necessary to challenge the Corinthians to prove the sincerity of their professed love to God and to others, by calling upon them to do their part financially.
- II Corinthians 9:6-7—not only do we need to purpose and plan out in advance what our level of giving should be we also need to be consistent.
- Philippians 4:15-16—just because you aren't here doesn't mean the bills still don't need to be paid.

Grace Liberality is a Gift From God

- Philemon 21—grace should be willing to do more to go the extra mile as we strive together to build the body of Christ.
- Acts 20:35—“it is more blessed to give than to receive.” We never deserved God's forgiveness and grace but we received His free gift—what a blessing.
- I Corinthians 15:58—the things we do in this life for the work of the Lord will endure throughout all eternity. Let's set our affections on things above and let our affections dictate how we use our money.