

2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 17

Chapter 8:20-24, 9:1-15 Proper Attitudes and Motives in Giving

21 August 2023

The bible rarely speaks about matters of giving. However, when we reach a passage of scripture where the topic is giving, we are not going to pretend it isn't there. We will see what the bible says about it and aim to learn from it and apply it to our hearts and lives.

Summary from last week:

- Giving to God's work manifests your love for the Lord.
- Giving to God's work is not commanded in the bible.

CHAPTER 8

Vs 20 **"...Avoiding...blame...in this abundance..."** Yes, we must avoid the appearance of evil. But it is necessary that someone take responsibility for money collected and distributed.

Vs 21 **"Providing for honest things..."** There are accounting practices and accountability measures that can be implemented to ensure the Lord's money is handled honestly.

21-23 Paul was able to boast of his fellow-helpers who were bringing glory to Christ.

Vs 24 **"Shew...the proof of your love..."** This is a bible principle: your giving proves your love for Christ.

CHAPTER 9

Vs 1 Paul knows this church already knows how to properly minister to the saints. He's going to remind them again. This is a bible principle: It is good to repeat a teaching to those who already know it.

Vs 2 The zeal of the Corinthian church in their giving encouraged other churches to follow their example.

3-5 Paul sent brethren to Corinth to help them get prepared to give their collection to the Macedonians.

Vs 6 Bible principle: Sow sparingly, reap sparingly; sow bountifully, reap bountifully.

- There are con-artists who preach this passage to coerce people into giving them money. The fact that there are dishonest preachers doesn't mean this bible principle isn't true.
- If you sow bountifully from a right heart, you can anticipate a bountiful return on your investment, either in this life or in your life hereafter.

Vs 7 God only wants you to give what you want to give. He doesn't want you to give because you think it is required. He doesn't want to have to pry a gift out of your closed hand and your reluctant heart.

- Give because you love Jesus Christ, and you want others to know how wonderful He is.
- It should be a cheerful thing to give to the work of the Lord. **"For God loveth a cheerful giver."** (See also 1 Chronicles 29:9).

Vs 8 By grace, God will make sure that you have what you need to abound to every good work; giving, singing, witnessing, praying, etc.

9-11 Verse 9 is quoted from Psalm 112:9. Doing right affects our "forever." All that we have came from God. When we minister to others what God has multiplied to us, people give thanks to God.

12-13 Your giving provides for the saints in need and provides "many thanksgivings unto God." Give as an experiment (vs 13). Experiment in giving more. It will result in men giving more glory to God.

Vs 14 **"...their prayer for you."** Those who receive your gifts will want to pray more for you.

Vs 15 **"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."** God provided the ultimate example of giving (John 3:16). He gave His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.