

2016: Overflowing in a Wealth of Generosity

Small Group Follow-up Study for 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

RE-READ

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

RECAP

As members here at Campbell Baptist Church, we've covenanted together to be an open-handed people:

In respect to Stewardship, I recognize my responsibility and will now purpose to let God control my life, time, and resources. Because He is a lavish giver, I too shall be lavish and cheerful in the regular giving of myself and my resources (Luke 16:2):

- To the financial support of the ministry (Malachi 3:8-12; Matt. 6:3-4; 2 Cor. 9:6-8; 1 Cor. 16:2).
- To the relief of the poor (1 John 3:17-18).
- To spread the Gospel at home and abroad (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19-20).

What a commitment we've made! The question is, "How do we do that? How do we become lavish and cheerful in our giving to the financial support of the ministry, to the relief of the poor, and to the spread of the gospel at home and abroad?" The answer is not to use gimmicks nor is it to use guilt. Instead, it is to rely upon the grace of God to create an abundance of joy that would then overflow in a wealth of generosity.

RESPOND

1. What caught your attention from Sunday's sermon? What are you still thinking about/mulling over? What questions did Sunday's sermon raise that remain unanswered in your mind?
2. Given the fact that our joy goes up and down, how can we work toward the kind of abundance of joy that will sustain an ongoing wealth of generosity?
3. What may we see as the significance of the fact that grace and gratitude are translated from the same Greek word in the New Testament?
4. When have you been most stirred or prompted to give beyond what might have been expected of you? What do you learn from this about yourself and about giving?
5. Illustrate from the Bible itself, and then from your own experience, that God is the giving God.
6. Given our discussion tonight, how can we be praying for ourselves and for our church?