



Generous Grace

2 Corinthians 8 & 9 | January 17th - 23rd, 2016

Warm Up: Randy Alcorn says, “People within the church are often more open to talk about their sexual struggles than about battling materialism, which just may be the final frontier.”¹ What does he mean by this? Do you agree? Why or why not?

- ❖ On Sunday we looked at four biblical principles of stewardship. Briefly summarize these together as a group. 1. The Principle of **OWNERSHIP** (Gen. 1:1; Psalm 24:1) 2. The Principle of **RESPONSIBILITY** (Gen. 2:15) 3. The Principle of **ACCOUNTABILITY** (Luke 12:48) 4. The Principle of **REWARD** (Matt. 25:14-30) Which of these principles impacts you most at this time in your life? Is it easy for you to lose sight of any of these? Why might this be?
- ❖ In **2 Cor. 8** and **9**, two themes are dominant: A. *Renewed stewardship* and B. *Testing*. In what ways do you feel the Lord is calling you toward a renewed stewardship in your life? Share.
 - Have there been times in your life where you felt you were being tested in the area of giving or generosity? Do you feel you fared well in the testing? Share.
- ❖ Read **2 Cor. 8:1-15** aloud. The Macedonian believers are an incredible example of generosity motivated by the grace of God. They were in a severe “**test of affliction**” (v.2), yet God’s grace came down (v.1), abundant joy welled up (v.2) and huge generosity flowed forth (v.2). How does their generosity challenge and/or minister to you personally?
 - Do you feel like you can relate with being *so moved* by God’s grace? Can you imagine a scenario in which you would “beg” to give to the Lord’s work (v.4)?
- ❖ Take some time to consider the six principles of giving outlined in **2 Cor. 8** and **9**. They are: 1. Give according to a **PLAN** (1 Cor. 16:1-2). Give **PROPORTIONATELY** (2 Cor. 8:11b). 3. Give **SACRIFICIALLY** (Luke 21:3-4). 4. Give **GENEROUSLY** (2 Cor. 9:6). 5. Give **CHEERFULLY & FROM THE HEART** (2 Cor. 9:7-8) and 6. Give in response to the **GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST** (2 Cor. 8:9; John 3:16a; Romans 12:1a).
 - Discuss each of these. What questions do you have about them? How do they encourage, challenge, or convict you?

Wrap Up: 2016 is wide open before us. It’s a perfect time to renew your commitment to live a life of abundant generosity in response to the gospel. Pray for this in one another’s lives!

¹ <http://www.epm.org/resources/2013/Nov/13/eternity-minded-stewardship-and-giving/#ixzz3Ok0Bf1F2>