

The Cheerful Giver/God Loves a Cheerful Giver

November 3rd, 2019

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9.6-15

2 Corinthians 9.6-15 (NIV)

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

⁹ As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Read and Discuss

Introduction

Pastor Jacob started a new message series titled “The Cheerful Giver”. The central passage of scripture for the month of November is from Paul’s second letter to the believers in Corinth. Paul was teaching the church what it looks like to have a heart like God’s—giving cheerfully and out of abundance.

Engage the Scripture

- Read 2 Corinthians 9.6-15. Can you think of both positive and negative examples of reaping what you have sown?
- When considering what you are sowing and reaping ask yourself these questions:

What are you pouring your life into? How would you answer that question? What would those around you say you are pouring your life into? Family? Work? Sports? Friends?

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How are you pouring your life out? Are you cheerful and glad when you pour your life into things you listed above? When are you most likely to be glad? When are you most likely to be grumpy or reluctant?

- Read 2 Corinthians 9.8 again. When have you felt like you didn't have enough? When did you think that God had missed an opportunity to bless you? The truth is, we have everything we need. God will use us to do good work and live generously. Has that statement ever rung true for you?
- Sometimes you reap what you do not sow. Pastor Jacob shared this principle that may sound at odds with the verse 6. But then he shared about the fruit that God is producing through Providence church comes from seed planted and watered long before the Providence community even existed. What good things are you reaping today that come from something sown in the past?

Pray

Prayerfully list some of the examples of God's goodness and provision in your lives.

After each one is shared, pray together: **Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**