

APPLICATION

If there were ever a great case study in generosity, it would be the church in Corinth and Paul's words in **2 Corinthians 8-9**.

Take some time this week to sit down and read through these two chapters. Mark up your Bible as you do. Underline important phrases, highlight things that stick out to you, write notes and question marks in your margin.

As you do, meditate on these questions and ideas:

How does Paul begin discussing this theme in **chapter 8**?

What instruction does **8:3** offer in regard to our generosity?

How does the example of **8:9** work in Paul's argument?

What do you make of Paul's emphasis on the giving and the gift being above reproach and credible in **8:20-21**?

Is this perhaps part of the reason why Paul wants the gift collected before he arrives? See **9:3-5**.

How does Paul connect generosity to "proving your love" in **8:24**?

What things stood out to you in the passage we studied (**9:6-15**)?

What specific application is God laying on your heart?

How are you going to grow in generosity?

SEASON
OF GIVING

giving
RESOURCES

GIVING YOUR RESOURCES

2 Corinthians 9:10-15

What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you didn't?

1 Corinthians 4:7

Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the which is life indeed.

1 Timothy 6:18-19

Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 12:33-34

When one sees a topic or sermon title like this—*Giving Your Resources*—the mind almost automatically jumps to finances, checks, commitments and dollars. But that is not the topic. God wants much more than that. He wants all of you. His plan is big.

The letter of **2 Corinthians** is largely concerned with a gift that the Corinthian church promised to give to the church in Jerusalem (**ch. 8-9**). The Jerusalem church was experiencing dramatic need for several reasons including a severe famine in AD 46.

See **Acts 21:17; Romans 15:25-27**.

9:10-11—The first statement Paul makes here is the heart of his argument and the central issue in our struggle with generosity: *whole-hearted belief that our possessions, wealth and stability are completely gifts from God and NOT solely the result of our hard work, effort and education*. See **1 Corinthians 4:7**

This same GIVING God will do much more. He will “enrich” you in all things for the sake of “generosity.”

9:12-14—This kind of generosity does three things: 1) it enriches the giver (**v.11**), 2) it serves the needy (**v.12a**), and 3) it glorifies God (**v.13**).

Notice that those receiving the gift should connect the generosity given them to the obedient confession of the giver's faith in Christ. Giving is an act of faith in response to God's grace.

9:15—Above all, we must remember that God gave the ultimate gift. He gave first. He gave most. This indescribable gift is His Son.

9:6-9—Without trying to be cute about it, I wanted to save this previous passage for last. The opening statement is a form of the proverbial statement: *You reap that which you sow*. The emphasis should be on the word “that,” for it is a truth about kind: *you reap the very things that you plant*. See **Proverbs 22:8-9; 11:24-25; 19:17; Luke 6:38; Galatians 6:6-7**. God approves the kind of giver that finds joy in the giving. This joy is also an act of faith in the ability of God to abound ALL grace to you for every need. See **Psalms 112**.