

THE GRACE OF LIBERALITY

Lesson three

II Cor. 8:7

INTRODUCTION:

1. We continue in our study of GIVING
2. These lessons are very important.

I. LESSONS WE LEARN BY GIVING

1. SELF-DISCIPLINE -- I Cor. 9:27; II Pet. 1:6

- (1) I must not only control my sensual passions, but my desire to spend my money all upon myself.
- (2) I must become concerned with other's needs -- Eph. 4:28; I John 3:17; I Tim. 5:4, 8, 16
- (3) I must think of the needs of the church if it is to do its work.

2. SACRIFICE

- (1) One must make sacrifice in order to give to the church and to others -- Heb. 13:16

3. SHARING

- (1) Eph. 4:28
- (2) II Cor. 8: 2 - 5

4. CONTROL COVETOUSNESS

- (1) Giving sacrificially will help to overcome the temptation to covetousness -- II Cor. 9:5
- (2) Jesus warns us to "*Take heed and beware of covetousness*" -- Luke 12:15
- (3) COVETOUSNESS -- A desire for that which rightfully belongs to another.
 1. It is the desire for that which a man has NO right to desire.
 2. The rich man of Luke 12: 16 - 21; 16: 19 - 31

II. THE ACCEPTABLE GIVER IS A CHEERFUL GIVER -- II Cor. 9:7

1. A cheerful giver is NOT a LOVER OF MONEY and material things -- I Tim. 6:10

- (1) A man who loves his money is not going to be a very cheerful giver.

2. A cheerful giver is concerned about the church

- (1) He recognizes the importance of its work in saving souls -- I Tim. 3:15
- (2) The salvation of souls costs money:
 1. Publishing a paper
 2. Building
 3. Workbooks
 4. Wages of preachers
 5. Gospel meetings

- (3) He realizes that he is personally responsible for his part in this great work -- Acts 11: 29
 - (4) He cheerfully and joyfully accepts his responsibility
 - (5) Unless these things stir his heart, no man can give cheerfully to the work of the Lord.
3. The cheerful giver recognizes that the thing for which he is giving is of infinitely more value than that which he gives.
- (1) He must never feel that the money given might have been of more use to him in some other way.
 - (2) Giving must give pleasure to the giver.

III. THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES

1. Jesus warned that many would go back into the world because of the DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES -- Matt. 13:22
2. Let us notice the ways riches can deceive one:
- (1) Riches are deceiving in the preoccupation they demand.
 - 1. Making money is competitive and requires more and more concentration.
 - 2. One gets where he cannot keep his mind on worship for thinking about making money.
 - 3. Making money takes more and more time.
 - (2) Riches are deceiving in the manner in which they affect Character -- I Tim. 6:17
 - 1. Money gives a man more recognition and this inflates his pride.
 - 2. One with money becomes less dependent upon God -- I Tim. 6:17
 - 3. One becomes more harsh and demanding of others -- James 2:6
 - 4. The virtue of spiritual maturity fails to appear in one's life.
 - 5. Wealth has deceived him.
3. Riches are deceiving in the false values they create.
- (1) The pursuit of money puts us into close and intimate contact with others who are successful financially.
 - (2) We see, in our newfound friends, things we like and admire.
 - (3) These people are quick, intelligent, and have a broad grasp of many matters.
 - (4) So, to stay up with these people, our values change and we change.
4. Riches are deceiving in their effect upon the family.
- (1) Man making money does not have time for his family.
 - (2) He destroys his children with money.

IV. THE LORD'S PLAN OF GIVING -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2

1. WHEN are we to give?
- (1) *"Upon the first day of the week"* -- I Cor. 16:2
2. WHO is to give? --I Cor. 16:2
- (1) *"Every one of you"*
 - (2) Each member of the church is to give.

(3) Salvation is a personal matter -- Phil. 2:12

3. WHAT are we to do?

(1) *"Lay by him in store"* -- v. 2

(2) Put our money in the common treasury.

4. HOW MUCH?

(1) Many people seem to have difficulty in understanding what this means -- they ask "How much is that?"

(2) Let me see if I can help you with this:

1. Do you know the kind of house you can live in as you have prospered?

2. Do you know what kind of car to drive "as prospered"?

3. Do you know how much insurance to carry as you have been "prospered"?

CONCLUSION:

1. I hope this lesson will help all of us to better understand our duty in giving to the work of the Lord.

2. Are you here and not a Christian?

3. Won't you become one now?

4. Plan of Salvation

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