

THE GRACE OF LIBERALITY

LESSON TWO

II Cor. 8:7

INTRODUCTION:

1. We continue our study on the subject of GIVING.
2. This is an important subject.
3. Our eternal salvation is involved in our giving and using our material goods in a proper way.

I. THE NEW TESTAMENT COMMANDS US TO GIVE LIBERALLY

1. *"He who gives, with liberality"* -- Rom. 12:8 NKJV
2. We are to abound in the grace of liberality -- II Cor. 8:7
3. We are to sow "bountifully" -- II Cor. 9:6
4. With generosity - - openhanded.

II. IN OUR GIVING WE HAVE "FELLOWSHIP" WITH EACH OTHER IN CARRYING OUT THE RESPONSIBILITY GOD HAS ENJOINED ON THE LOCAL CHURCH

1. Acts 2: 42 -- The word "fellowship" means: A sharing
2. Each member is to share the financial burden of the congregation -- I Cor. 16:1 - 2
 - (1) The sharing is according to ABILITY -- II Cor. 8:12; Acts 11:29
 - (2) All do not have the same ability -- Matt. 25:14 - 15
 - (3) But, all are to share -- II Cor. 8:12
 - (4) All Christians receive from God and are to give.
 - (5) There are NO exceptions -- (young people)

III. CONSECRATION OF SELF AND LOVE ARE THE BASIS OF GIVING

1. The Christians that made up the churches of Macedonia *"First gave their own selves to the Lord"* -- II Cor. 8:5
2. Their gift was a gift of faith because it was a gift of poverty -- II Cor. 8:2
 - (1) Their giving showed their dependence upon God -- I Tim. 6:17
 - (2) This is the kind of faith God wants us to have -- Matt. 6: 24 - 31
 - (3) Many have put their last dollar in the offering, only to discover that God provided the means to earn another.
3. The widow that cast in two mites --she gave a gift of poverty; Jesus said she had given more than all the rest -- Mark 12: 41 - 44
 - (1) Not more in material value
 - (2) But, in proportion to her means
 - (3) She showed more love for the Lord's cause
 - (4) More self-denial

- (5) More sincerity in what she did
- (6) She trusted God to supply her wants
- 4. Paul said our giving proves the sincerity of our love -- II Cor. 8: 8, 24
 - (1) Christ is our EXAMPLE -- II Cor. 8:9; Luke 9:58; II Cor. 5:14
- 5. God, the greatest EXAMPLE of liberality and love:
 - (1) He gives to all life, breath and all things -- Acts 17: 24 - 25; I Tim. 6: 17; James 1:17
 - (2) He gave His only begotten Son -- John 3:16; I John 4:10

IV. WHY MEN DO NOT GIVE LIBERALLY

- 1. A lack of teaching
 - (1) Enough teaching has not been done on this subject.
 - (2) Parents, Bible teachers, and preachers are all guilty
 - (3) Illustration: My sister-in-law gave 50 cents because she saw her aunt give that. Then she heard a sermon on the subject and knew she was not doing her duty.
- 2. Selfishness and personal pleasure
 - (1) Often members spend more each week for personal pleasure than they give to God.
 - (2) II Tim. 3:4
- 3. False pride and extravagance
 - (1) Keeping up with friends and neighbors
 - (2) Nothing left for God
- 4. Poor management
 - (1) The average man makes more than just a living
 - (2) Eph. 4:28
- 5. Stinginess and the love of money -- I Tim. 6: 1 - 10
- 6. Lack of love for God -- we do not rob those we love -- Mal. 3:8

V. CONSEQUENCES OF FAILING TO GIVE LIBERALLY

- 1. The church is robbed of progress
 - (1) Many go without the gospel that would otherwise hear it.
- 2. Preachers are robbed of adequate support -- I Cor. 9:14
- 3. We rob ourselves -- Acts 20:35
- 4. We rob ourselves of salvation
 - (1) There is no place in heaven for the dishonest
 - (2) The person who robs God cuts himself off from heaven

CONCLUSION