

## Grace Giving

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**Key Truth:** Followers of Christ give cheerfully in response to God's abundant gift of grace and produce through their giving a harvest of righteousness.

Do we live in a way that makes generous giving a normal part of our lives? We may think: "I'd love to give generously and cheerfully, but money's so tight." Of course, for all of us, money is always scarce. Yet, God makes it clear that nothing is ever truly scarce with Him. Of course, we give in many ways – "time & talent." But from the earliest days of the Christian Church, believers also gave of their "treasure," to benefit the Body of Christ and its members. In this chapter of 2 Corinthians, Paul helps Christians reimagine giving, not as a legal obligation, but as a thank offering for the grace that God has given them. We may call this "grace giving."

## DISCUSS

Read **2 Corinthians 9:6-15** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled "Grace Giving."

## DIG IN

### 1. Giving is Planting.

(v. 6)

Describe the agricultural imagery that Paul uses in this chapter. Why do you think he uses the language of a farmer rather than that of an economist or businessman?

**Read Luke 6:38:** How does Jesus tie giving to the concept of forgiveness? How might that demonstrate the grace of God given to us?

### 2. Giving is Purposeful.

(vv. 7-9)

In what ways should we give on purpose (v. 7)?

In what ways might our devising a *plan* to give financially to the Body of Christ help us avoid the reluctance to give, and foster a cheerful attitude?

### 3. Giving is Productive.

(vv. 12-15)

In what ways does giving produce thanksgiving (vv. 10-14)?

Who are the ones being thankful (v. 12)? Whom are they thanking?

**Read 2 Corinthians 9:15:** In what ways does our giving evoke praise to God (doxology)?

Do you agree that our financial giving should start with the Church *and* start with a tithe (tenth)? Why or why not? What does that look like to you?

## DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?