



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Participant 10/28/2018

H

HIGHLIGHT: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶Remember this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work. ⁹As it is written:

He scattered;
He gave to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever.

¹⁰Now the One who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. ¹²For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God. ¹³They will glorify God for your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with others through the proof provided by this service. ¹⁴And they will have deep affection for you in their prayers on your behalf because of the surpassing grace of God in you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.



EXPLAIN

In his first letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:1-4), Paul urged the church to begin systematically storing up money to give to churches in Jerusalem. They were evidently excited about the opportunity to use what they had to enrich believers in need, because Paul commended their eagerness in 2 Corinthians 9:2. In this passage, Paul explains that since they have been blessed richly in Christ, they should give generously with a cheerful heart.

- v.6 Paul frequently referenced cultural sayings in his writings that made the things he said immediately understandable to his audience. Some suggest that what he wrote about sowing and reaping in this verse is one such common saying, since it is based on what would have been common agricultural knowledge. It is also consistent with sayings in Proverbs (11:24-25; 19:7; 22:8-9) and from Jesus (Luke 6:38). He wrote of sowing and reaping again in Galatians 6:7-9, and will pick back up on the agricultural imagery in verse 10.

- v.7 If one would add up all of the various Temple Taxes and tithes required of Jews under the Old Covenant, the average annual requirement would be around 23% of someone's income. However, since tithing was a requirement, it ran the risk of being a burden or an obligation rather than a joy. Believers are not required to observe Old Testament tithing laws, since we have, for example, neither a centralized Temple nor storehouses designed to feed the needy. This does not exempt believers from giving, though. Instead, it frees us to give *generously* and *constantly* in reaction to the "indescribable gift" we have been given in Christ (v.15).

- v.8 As we give generously and cheerfully, we will find that something remarkable happens: God provides us with the means to continue doing so. Paul tells the Corinthian church that if they give in such a way, God is able "to make every grace overflow" to them. This does not imply that we should give so that God will make us rich. Murray J. Harris elaborates: "As regularly as the resources of the cheerful giver are taxed by generous giving, they are replenished by divine grace." We give and are given back to so that we may continue to give!

- vv.11-13 Something remarkable would happen when the Corinthian church gave generously: it would produce thanksgiving in the hearts of the Jerusalem believers, to whom the money and gifts would go! Furthermore, Paul declares that generous giving is our "obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ." Because we have been given richly to by God, we are to turn and give richly back to Him.



A

APPLY

*Your Leader Guide will have material that the member guides do not have. The **bolded** material is what the people in your group will have, the other material is only for you to help guide discussion.*

This guide can be as strict a script or as general a resource as the leader needs it to be.

1. **What stuck out to you or challenged you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text?**
2. **What do you think generosity is? Tell about a time when you have either received or witnessed an act of generosity. How did that act of generosity affect the people involved?**
3. **How does God bless people who give generously? Why do you think God will “enrich” (v.11) generous givers?**
4. **What gift does this passage say we have been given that should motivate us to be givers, ourselves? What are things that keep us from giving generously?**
5. Take stock of the blessings and gifts you have received. **How can you, personally, can give generously?**

R

RESPOND

Challenge your group to respond either privately or corporately to this question:

- **Spend a few minutes in prayer thanking God for the blessings He’s given you.**
- **Pray about a specific way you can exercise generous giving this week.**

Encourage one another through email, text messages, or coffee dates throughout the week to build up and encourage each other.

