

**Sermon Topic:** Stewardship Series -Treasure

**Sermon Text:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

### **A. Introduction**

Pastor shared a story of the boy who asked God to catch his offering as he tossed it up in the air.

### **B. Give To The Lord**

The people in the Macedonian church gave beyond their ability and entirely on their own. Why? What motivated them?

- They were in “bottom rock” poverty, yet it did not stop their generosity. They first gave themselves to the Lord, then they gave themselves to Paul (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).
- They gave according to their ability and went beyond. Their giving was not reckless. They gave willingly.
- They gave out of their poverty because of the sincerity of their commitment to Christ as Lord. So great was their desire to serve Christ that they would not allow their economic situation to keep them from being involved in the Lord's work.
- That’s why the collection is also known as a service to the saints (vs 4)

Think about it. When we give ourselves fully to God, we give Him everything. The sincerity of our love is tested through our giving. Do we excel in the grace of giving?

### **C. Give What Is Decided In The Heart**

Each of us should give to the Lord as we decide in our heart (2 Corinthians 9:7). We are not to give reluctantly or under compulsion. God loves a cheerful giver. A cheerful giver is confident that God will provide and supply his needs at all times. This confidence motivates the cheerful giver to sow bountifully, gratefully and cheerfully to the Kingdom of God. Our giving from the heart is evidence of the quality of our relationship with God. Our giving expresses our trust that God will not short-change us. Neither can we outgive God.

### **D. How To Steward Our Treasures?**

- Develop a greater ability to be generous
- Develop a greater gratitude/ give glory to God
- Develop a greater joy to see the needs of others met
- Develop a greater love among God's people

### **E. How Much Do We Give?**

- The Mosaic Law: 1/10 or a tithe of what we get. (Malachi 3:10)
- The New Covenant: Give cheerfully and generously without compulsion. Give in freedom and give in joy. Give what is decided and purposed in the heart.

### **F. Discussion/Reflection Questions**

- 1 Take some time to reflect on your habit of giving. Are you giving with bounty in mind or with meagerness in mind? What is your attitude in giving? What is your practice in giving?
- 2 Paul mentioned 2 wrong motivations in giving: reluctance and compulsion (9:7). What are these? How are these incompatible to the worship of God?
- 3 How does God want us to give instead? What does cheerfulness in giving say about the person's relationship with God?
- 4 Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-11. What is the purpose of God increasing your "store of seed"? Is it for sole purpose of accumulating personal financial wealth?
- 5 How do greed and generosity differ from each other? What is God's promise to generous givers (9:11)