

Sermon: God Loves A Cheerful Giver

Text: 2 Corinthians 8-9

Discussion Questions:

- Paul is challenging the church in Corinth to be generous by telling them how generous the churches in Macedonia have already been (2 Cor. 8:1-9).
 - Why do you think Paul takes this approach?
 - Is comparison a good motivator?
 - What excuse does Paul address in v. 2?
 - In what ways did the Macedonian churches go over and above in their desire to contribute (v. 4)?
 - What do you think Paul means in verse 7 when he talks about “excelling in the grace of giving”?
 - Paul states plainly in verse 8 that he is “comparing” their generosity with the generosity of others. Why is he doing this? What is he “testing”?
 - Who does Paul cite as the ultimate standard of generosity in verse 9?

- Paul states in verse 10 that being generous (and following through on their commitment to give) is “what is best for you in this matter.” In what ways can generosity be “the best” for us?

- What is Paul’s ultimate goal in verse 13?

- What role does Titus play in the collection that Paul is requesting? (vv. 16-24)

- Does Paul seem to be “twisting the arms” of the Corinthian believers (2 Cor. 9:1-5)? Why do you think Paul seems to be pushing so hard on this?

- Discuss the various principles regarding generosity and giving that Paul outlines in verses 6-11.

- How can we teach generosity in our homes and with our children/grandchildren?

- What are some of the possible outcomes of generosity that Paul mentions in verses 12-15?