

## Unpacking the Preach

Date: 18th September 2022  
Sermon Title: The Grace of Giving  
Bible Passage: 2 Corinthians 8: 1 - 12

### **Introduction**

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations and expand the reading to the whole of chapter 8 and 9.

- Highlight the key verses from this passage and what it they are saying?
- Does the passage raise any questions for you?

### **Recapping the Preach**

Stu began by pointing out that we are re-visiting Paul's teaching on giving for two reasons: 1) it is Pledge Sunday next week and 2) one of our pursuits is 'we pursue generosity'. He acknowledged that, given the financial climate, it may seem insensitive. However it is necessary so that as we approach Pledge Sunday we will do so thoughtfully and prayerfully in an informed way.

- Summarise your understanding of giving under the following headings: why do we give, when should we give, what should we give, how should we give, where should we give to?
- What Scriptures would you turn to, to support your answers to the above?

Stu pointed out that giving in the New Testament is not a command. It was a requirement of the Old Testament Law but this has been fulfilled in Christ. However many Christians still approach the idea of giving based on the OT system of tithing.

- Why do you many churches and Christians still think of giving in terms of tithing, with 10% being the goal?
- Do you think it is helpful / unhelpful to use the OT guide of tithe as a starting place?
- What are the dangers of approaching giving in this way?

Paul encourages the church in Corinth to excel in the grace of giving because Jesus, although He was rich, for our sakes He became poor, so that through His poverty we might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).

- How does this verse shape our giving?
- In what ways have we become 'rich' through Christ's poverty?
- Stu concluded on 8:9 that, *'All our giving and generosity flows from and is in response to his great grace lavished on us. In pursuing generosity we are not responding to a command that is to be grudgingly obeyed or God will be angry with us, no it is our joyful response to his generosity already shown to us'*. What thoughts does this statement bring to mind?
- Stu pointed out that the rewards we reap from giving are joy, thanksgiving and worship. In what ways have you experienced this before?

Stu finished with some practical instruction that our giving should be systematic or planned (1 Corinthians 16:2), proportionate (1 Corinthians 16:2, 2 Corinthians 8:12) and at times sacrificial (2 Corinthians 8:3,9) and above all cheerful (2 Corinthians 9:7).

- Are there other practical principles you apply to giving?
- Which of these do you need to work on?
- Paul stimulates a bit of healthy competition between the churches in their giving (2 Corinthians 9:1-5). How can we similarly encourage one another in giving?

**Response**

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- Do you need to review your giving and either increase or decrease it, so that it is proportionate?

**Prayer pointers**

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Thank God for His abundant provision for us in Christ Jesus.

**Additional resources:**

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://bibleproject.com> (videos)
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>
- The Shortfall - a book available in the KBC library