

“Freely Give!”
2 Corinthians 11:5-11

Introduction:

1. Let's Head Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To 2 Corinthians 11:
 - Where The Apostle Paul:
 - Has Been Appealing To The Corinthian Church:
 - To Reject The Influence:
 - Of The False Leaders Who Were Leading Them Astray:
 - With A Message About Another Jesus, Another Spirit, And Another Gospel! (11:4)
 - And So - In 11:5-11 - Paul's Appeal Continues:
 - “For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles. / But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been throughly made manifest among you in all things. / Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely? / I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service. / And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself. / As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia. / Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth!”
2. Now - I'm Sure You Are All Familiar With:
 - That Old Adage:
 - “You Get What You Pay For!”
 - A Lot Of Times - When You Pay A Bargain Price:
 - You Are Going To Get:
 - Bargain Quality!
 - There Are Probably Times In Your Life:
 - That This Has Proven True For You As Well!
 - Well - There Was A Similar Principle At Work:
 - In Ancient Greece:
 - And In Cities Like Athens - That Great Center:
 - Of Philosophy - As Well As In:
 - The City Of Corinth!
 - Whenever A Young, Up-And-Coming Philosopher:
 - Wanted To Share His Insights With Others:
 - He Would Charge His Pupils For The Privilege Of Hearing His Wit & Wisdom!
 - And This Became A Well-Known Practice By The Time Paul Visited Greece With The Gospel!
 - In Fact - The Practice Became So Wide-Spread:
 - That If Someone Did Not Charge:
 - For Their Instruction & Insight:
 - It Wasn't Considered To Be Of Much Value!
 - They Came To Believe That Even When It Comes To Teaching About Wisdom & Virtue:
 - “You Get What You Pay For!”
3. Well - This Seems To Have Been:
 - Another Accusation Against The Apostle Paul:
 - By The False Apostles - That We've Been Learning About!
 - Because - As We Just Read In 11:7:
 - Paul “Preached – The Gospel Of God Freely!”
 - Without Money & Without Price!
 - And So - In That Culture:
 - This Would Have Been One Reason Why:
 - Paul's Message Was Considered Foolish & Without Value!
 - As He Said In:
 - 1 Corinthians 1:18 - “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God!”

- But For Paul:
 - His Pattern Of Ministry:
 - And Sharing The Gospel “Freely” & “Without Charge” Was:
 - A Living Illustration & Example:
 - Of The Gospel Itself!
 - Whenever Paul Would Start Preaching The Gospel:
 - In A New City - Like Ephesus & Thessalonica & Corinth:
 - He Would Work With His Own Hands:
 - As A Tent-Maker & Leather-Worker - In Order To Provide For Both His Personal & Ministry Needs!
 - And Every Once-In-A-While He Would Also Receive Love-Gifts From Other Churches He Had Already Established!
 - And Even Though Paul Believed That:
 - “The Laborer Is Worthy Of His Hire” - And That:
 - Ministers Of The Gospel Have The Right:
 - To Be Paid & Provided For By Those They Minister To:
 - Paul Chose Not To Exercise That Right!
 - So - Instead:

4. Paul Chose To Live Out:

- What Jesus Told His Disciples To Do:
 - In Matthew 10:8:
 - “Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give!”
 - ***Freely Give!***
- For Paul:
 - This Was The Mark Of A True Apostle!
 - This Was The Mark:
 - Of A True Follower Of Jesus Christ!
 - And So It Remains!
 - ***“Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give!”***
 - And This Morning - I Would Like For You To See:
 - From Paul’s Own Life & Ministry:
 - Just What This Means:
 - In Your Own Life & Ministry!
 - True Followers Of Jesus Christ:
 - “Freely Give!”
 - What Christ Himself Has Given:
 - So Freely To Them!

* First - As We See From The Life Of The Apostle Paul - We Need To:

1. Freely Give God’s Truth!

- Which Is What Paul Gave To The Corinthians:
 - In 11:6 - When He Said:
 - “But Though I Be Rude (Unprofessional / Untrained) In Speech – Like Those Other Professional Philosophers – Yet Not In Knowledge!”
 - For Paul - This Was Not A Statement Of Pride!
 - Instead - It Was A Statement Of Truth!
 - God Had Graciously Provided Him:
 - Knowledge Of The Truth!
 - Truth That He Did Not Know Before He Met Jesus On The Road To Damascus!
 - And Since He Had “Freely Received” God’s Truth:
 - He Was Going To “Freely Give” God’s Truth:
 - To Others - Who Were In The Same Plight!
 - And As We See In 11:5-6:
 - Paul Gave Out God’s Truth:
- Through Careful Examination!
 - In 11:5 - Paul Writes - “For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles!”
 - Now - There Is Some Debate As To Who:

- Paul Is Talking About In This Verse!
 - Who Are These “Very Chiefest Apostles” - Or “Super-Apostles” As Other Translations May Put It!
- It May Refer To:
 - The False Apostles:
 - And What They Thought Of Themselves!
- Or - It May Refer To:
 - The True Apostles:
 - And How They Were Referred To By The Corinthians!
- Either Way - The Point Paul Is Making Is That:
 - He Took The Accusations Against Him:
 - Personally & Very Seriously - Because He Didn't Want There To Be Any Truth:
 - In Their Statements!
- He Already Felt - At Times:
 - That He Did Not Deserve To Be:
 - An Apostle Of Jesus Christ!
 - 1 Corinthians 15:9-10 - “For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. / But by the grace of God I am what I am!”
- And So - After Careful Examination:
 - Paul Could Make The Truthful Claim:
 - That He Was “Not A Whit Behind” Any Of The Apostles - In Both His Authenticity As An Apostle & His Authority As An Apostle!
 - He Was A Genuine & True Apostle Of Jesus Christ!
- And So - He Also Gave Out God's Truth:
 - Through Complete Transparency!
 - 11:6 - “But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been throughly made manifest among you in all things!”
 - Because Of The Truth:
 - Freely Given To Him By God:
 - Paul Never Wanted To Veer From The Truth:
 - In Any Way, Shape Or Form!
 - Not Only Did Paul *Speak* The Truth:
 - He Sought To *Live Out* The Truth:
 - In Complete Transparency!
 - Acts 24:16 - “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men!”
- If You Are A Christian This Morning:
 - You Too Have Been Given God's Truth!
 - A Truth That Has Made You Free!
 - John 8:32 - “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free!”
 - You Know The Truth:
 - About God:
 - And His Holy & Righteous Nature!
 - You Know The Truth:
 - About Yourself:
 - And How Your Sin Separated You From A Relationship With God!
 - You Know The Truth:
 - About Salvation:
 - That “There Is None Other Name Under Heaven Given Among Men, Whereby We Must Be Saved!” (Acts 4:12)
- Now - How Do You Know These Things / Truths?
 - As Jesus Told Peter - “Flesh And Blood Has Not Revealed It Unto You, But The Father Who Is In Haven!”
 - You Only Know These Truths Because God Has Revealed Them To You!
 - Now - What Will You Do With His Truth?
- As Jesus Said - “Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give!”
 - Freely Give God's Truth To Others!

* Second - We Also See That We Need To:

2. ***Freely Give God's Hope!***

- Which Is What Paul Shared With The Corinthians In:
 - The Second Half Of 11:7b - When He Wrote:
 - "I Have Preached To You The Gospel Of God!"
 - The Gospel Is The Good News Of Jesus Christ As Your Savior From Sin & Death!
 - This Was The Reason Why Paul:
 - When To The City Of Corinth:
 - In The First Place!
- And So - In The First Part Of 11:7 - Paul Asks Them:
 - "Have I Committed An Offense?"
 - Or A Sin Against You?
 - In 11:5 - Paul Examined Himself / In 11:7 - Paul Wants The Corinthians To Examine Him!
 - Did He Fail Them As An Apostle?
 - Did He Fail Them As Their Spiritual Father?
 - Did He Fail To Lead Them & Teach Them & Love Them:
 - To The Point That They Needed To Look For Another Spiritual Leader?
- The Answer To Paul's Question:
 - Is Clear!
 - He Had **Not** Failed Them!
 - Instead - Since He Had "Freely Received" God's Gospel:
 - He Was Going To "Freely Give" God's Gospel To Them!
- And As We Read In 11:7
 - Paul Gave Out God's Gospel:
- With Christ-Like Grace:
 - Because - As Paul Asked:
 - "Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted?"
 - Instead Of Lifting Himself Up:
 - With Pride - As The False Leaders Did - Expecting & Even Requiring Payment For Services Rendered!
 - Paul Sought To Lift Others Up:
 - By Pointing Them To Christ!
 - And He Was Willing To Pay Any Price:
 - For Them To Receive The Gospel!
 - 12:15 - "And I Will Very Gladly Spend And Be Spent For You!"
 - And Isn't This What Jesus Did For Us?
 - Remember Back - 8:9 - "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich!"
 - What Humility! What Grace!
 - Paul Also Gave Out God's Gospel:
- With Christ-Like Generosity!
 - Again - 11:7b - Paul States:
 - "I have preached to you the gospel of God freely!"
 - As A Gift! As A True Gift!
 - **IE:** Some Gifts Are Not True Gifts! Some Gifts Are Given With The Understanding That Something Should Be Given In Return!
 - But This Is Not How The Gospel Is To Be Given!
 - The Gospel Is To Be Given:
 - Without Expectation:
 - Of Anything In Return!
 - And Isn't This How Jesus Offered Himself To Us?
 - Romans 3:24 Tells Us That We Are - "Justified **freely** by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus!"
 - The Gospel Is The Good News About The Grace & Generosity Of Jesus Christ!
- If You Are Trusting In This Today:
 - You Too Have Been Given God's Gospel!

- A Gospel That You Have Bought:
 - “Without Money And Without Price!”
 - Though A Price Was Paid - Just Not By You - “But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot!” (1 Peter 1:19)
- Now - What Will You Do With This Gospel?
 - As Jesus Said - “Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give!”
 - Freely Give God’s Hope To Others!

* Third - We Need To:

3. *Freely Give God’s Service!*

- Which Is What Paul Offered To The Corinthians In:
 - The Second Half Of 11:8 - When He Said:
 - “I robbed *other* churches, taking wages of *them, to do you service!*”
 - That Is - Ministry - For Their Benefit & Their Blessing!
 - And For Paul - He Looked At Their Service:
 - As An Opportunity To:
- Repay A Debt!
 - His Debt - To The Lord!
 - 1 Corinthians 9:16 - “For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”
 - And So - When Other Churches:
 - Decided To Offer Paul Some Financial Support:
 - To Help Him Serve The Corinthians:
 - He Was Grateful - But He Didn’t Want People To Think He Was Taking Advantage Of - Or Robbing - Those Churches!
 - But - Of Course - He Wasn’t!
 - Because Even Those “Other Churches” Wanted:
 - To Repay Their Own Debt:
 - To The Lord & To Paul!
 - And So - They Gave!
 - They Gave Graciously, Generously & Cheerfully!
 - It Was No Robbery To Them!
 - And So Paul Was Freed Up To:
 - Realize A Desire:
 - Of His - As He Wrote In 11:9:
 - To Be “Chargeable To No Man” And:
 - To “Keep Himself From Being Burdensome!”
 - Again 11:9 - “And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself!”
 - Paul’s Desire Throughout His Ministry:
 - Was To Not Be A Burden:
 - On The Churches - But To Trust In The Lord:
 - For His Provision & Blessing!
 - But Once Again - Look At How God Provided:
 - For Paul’s Needs!
 - It Was Through The “Other Churches!”
 - Even Through The Poor Churches Of Macedonia:
 - Who Often Gave - 8:3 - Even Beyond Their Ability!
 - Paul Even Talks About A Time When He Was In Corinth:
 - And “Wanted!”
 - He Came Up Short Financially!
 - He Just Couldn’t Make Ends Meet!
 - **IE:** Corinth Was An Expensive Place To Live! High Cost Of Living!
 - Now - Paul Is Not Complaining Here:
 - He Is Merely Explaining That:
 - Even Though This Need:
 - Might Have Gone Unnoticed By:

- That Young & Small Corinthian Church!
- It Did Not Go Unnoticed By:
 - The Lord - Who Put It On The Heart Of The Other Churches:
 - To Help Paul!
- What An Example Of Grace & Giving!
 - Those Macedonian Christians!
 - Even Though They Were Still In Poverty:
 - They Wanted To Follow The Grace & Generosity Of Christ!
- And So - Paul Remained Free:
 - To "Freely Give" The Gospel:
 - In The City Of Corinth!
- **IE:** I Still Remember The Time - Just Out Of College - When I Was Serving At A Church In NW Illinois - And I Became Very Sick - Needed To See A Doctor - But I Had No Money & No Insurance - The Pastor Told Me To Make An Appointment With A Christian Doctor In A Nearby Town - Which I Did - But I Never Saw A Bill! This Doctor Was Known For "Freely Giving" His Services In Order To Keep Others In The Service Of The Lord!
- And When You Are Part Of God's Family:
 - You Too Have Been Given Countless Opportunities:
 - To Serve - The Lord & Others:
 - With Your Time, Talents & Gifts!
 - Now - What Will You Do With This Service?
 - As Jesus Said - "Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give!"
 - Freely Give God's Service To Others!

* And Then - We Also Need To:

4. Freely Give God's Love!

- Which Paul Alludes To In 11:11 - When He Asks:
 - "Wherefore? Because I Love You Not?"
 - **Of Course** Paul Loved The Corinthian Church!
 - Just Look At How He Served Them!
 - Freely! Faithfully!
 - And So - Paul's Love Was:
- A Dependable Love!
 - 11:10 - "As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia!"
 - Paul Wanted The Corinthians To Know:
 - Without Any Doubt:
 - His Love For Them! So - He Tells Them:
 - No One Should Question Him:
 - And His Relationship With Them:
 - Because "The Truth Of Christ" Was In Him!
 - Jesus Christ Himself Could Vouch For Paul's Veracity!
 - But Also:
 - No One Will Quiet Him:
 - As He Shares His Love:
 - And Shows His Love:
 - By "Freely Giving" All That He Had "Freely Received!"
 - His Love Was A Dependable Love!
 - But It Was Also:
 - A Deep Love!
 - A Love That God Himself Knew!
 - 11:11 - "Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth!"
 - Paul Wanted The Corinthians To See That The Primary Motivation Of His Ministry:
 - Was Love!
 - Love For God & Love For Them!
 - And Though They Cannot See Inside Paul's Heart:
 - The Omniscient God Can!
 - Because He Sees All & Knows All & Perceives All!
 - And God Himself Could Vouch For Paul's Love!

Conclusion:

1. What Have You “Freely Received” From The Lord:
 - This Morning?
 - As Paul Received:
 - You Too Have Received:
 - God’s Truth!
 - And God’s Gospel!
 - God’s Service!
 - And God’s Love!
 - And In Truth:
 - You Have Received So Much More!
- So Now:
 - What Will You Do:
 - With What You’ve Been Given?
2. Again - As Jesus Said In:
 - Matthew 10:8:
 - “Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give!”
 - **IE:** Just Last Week - My Wife - Angie - Had The Opportunity To Help A Lady At The Rehab Hospital - And This Lady - Even Though She Was In That Hospital “To Be Served” Realized That She Too Had The Opportunity “To Serve!” She Gave My Wife These Two Gospel Tracts! As I Told My Wife Later - She Was Not Just A Patient - She Was A Sister! A Sister In Christ! And As My Wife Looked At Her Bed-Side Table - She Had Two Stacks Of These Tracts - To Hand Out To Anyone & Everyone Who Might Come Into Her Room! Doctors / Nurses / Aids / Visitors / Passers-By!
 - One Thing I Noticed About These Tracts Is That There Is No Church Information On The Back - Like Ours! She Had Purchased These Tracts With Her Own Money! And Why?
 - Because - “Freely She Had Received!”
 - God’s Truth & Gospel & Service & Love!
 - So - She “Freely Gave!”
 - Won’t You Do The Same?

* “Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give!” – “Freely Give!”

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