

SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 38

TITLE: GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 9:1-7

INTRODUCTION: (1) ONE OF THE GREAT STATEMENTS AND TRUTHS IN THE BIBLE IS, **"GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER."**

* IT IS TO SAY, GOD DOES NOT WANT GENUINE CHRISTIANS TO BE SAD GIVERS, NOR MAD GIVERS, BUT GLAD GIVERS, CHEERFUL GIVERS.

** NOW THE WORD CHEERFUL USED IN II CORINTHIANS 9:7 IS USED ONLY ONE TIME IN THE ENTIRE N.T. AND IT IS THE GREEK WORD HE-LA-ROCE, FROM WHICH THE ENGLISH WORD HILARIOUS DERIVES.

*** SO GOD LOVES HILARIOUS GIVERS, JOYOUS GIVERS, HAPPY GIVERS, AN UNGRUDGING GIVING, AN ABANDONED GIVER, SOMEONE WHOM GIVES WITH RECKLESS PLEASURE.

**** HE OR SHE IS NOT A RELUCTANT GIVER, A GRUDGING GIVER, A JOYLESS GIVER, BUT A GENEROUS HILARIOUS GIVER.

(2) AND GOD HAS A SPECIAL LOVE FOR THAT KIND OF GIVER.

* YOU SAY RAY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN, I THOUGHT GOD LOVED EVERYONE?

** WELL, GOD LOVES EVERYONE WITH A GENERAL COMMON GRACE LOVE AS HE SENDS RAIN ON THE JUST AND THE UNJUST, AND CAUSES HIS SUN TO RISE ON THE EVIL AND THE GOOD IN MATTHEW 5:45.

* AND THAT GENERAL COMMON GRACE UNIVERSAL LOVE OF GOD IS MANIFEST IN BLESSINGS WHICH HE BESTOWS ON ALL INDISCRIMINATELY, A GOODWILL TYPE OF LOVE IN NOT JUDGING PEOPLE FOR THEIR SIN IMMEDIATELY, BUT ALLOWING THEM TO ENJOY THE GIFT OF LIFE.

** HOWEVER, GOD HAS A SAVING LOVE, AN ETERNAL LOVE, A REDEEMING LOVE FOR HIS ELECT, HIS CHOSEN ONES THAT HE WILL SAVE, SETTING HIS LOVE ON THEM IN ETERNITY PAST AND IN TIME CALLING THESE INDIVIDUALS OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT.

*** IT IS A SALVIFIC LOVE, A LOVE THAT SAVES PEOPLE AND KEEPS HIS REDEEMED AND THAT WHICH NOTHING CAN SEPARATE A TRUE BELIEVER FROM HIS LOVE, THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION FOR THAT PERSON.

**** SO GOD HAS A GENERAL UNIVERSAL COMMON GRACE LOVE FOR EVERYONE, HE HAS A SAVING ETERNAL LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE.

(3) AND THEN GOD HAS A SPECIAL UNIQUE **LOVE FOR HILARIOUS GIVERS, "GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER."**

* AND THE REASON FOR THIS SPECIAL, UNIQUE LOVE IS, GOD IS A GIVER, GOD HIMSELF IS A CHEERFUL GIVER.

** I MEAN CHRISTIAN, CONSIDER ALL THAT HE HAS DONE FOR US, HOW HE GIVES TO US EVERYDAY IN MANY WAYS.

*** AND WHENEVER WE FORGET THIS TRUTH, WE NEED TO REMIND OURSELVES THAT GOD WAS AND IS UNSPARING IN HIS GIVING TO HIS SHEEP.

**** **AS ROMANS 8:32 SAYS: "HE WHO DID NOT SPARE HIS OWN SON, BUT DELIVERED HIM OVER FOR US ALL, HOW WILL HE NOT ALSO WITH HIM FREELY GIVE US ALL THINGS?"**

(4) AND BELOVED, IN THE PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL REALM, GOD IS A GENEROUS GIVER; AND WE WHO WANT TO BE LIKE HIM MUST FOLLOW HIS DIVINE EXAMPLE.

* SO WHY DOES GOD HAVE A SPECIAL, UNIQUE LOVE FOR CHEERFUL GIVERS?

** IT IS BECAUSE HE HIMSELF IS NOT A GRUDGING MANIPULATIVE GIVER. GIVING IS A PART OF HIS BEING AND WHO HE IS. HE AS GOD IS THE MOST GENEROUS BEING IN THE UNIVERSE.

*** AND I WANTED THAT TRUTH TO KICK OFF OUR STUDY AND CONCLUDE OUR STUDY TODAY, **AS I'VE TITLED MY SERMON, "GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER."**

**** **AND UNDER THAT TITLE, WE'LL LOOK AT 3** MAIN POINTS TODAY. NO. 1 THE READINESS OF THE CORINTHIANS IN GIVING TO THIS OFFERING, VV. 1-5; NO. 2 THE REAPING THAT IS INVOLVED IN SOWING BY GIVING, V. 6; AND NO. 3 THE

REQUIREMENT FOR GIVING, TO HAVE A CHEERFUL HEART, V. 7.

(5) AND WITH THOSE 3 POINTS TO DIRECT OUT THINKING AND OUR HEARTS, LOOK AT

II CORINTHIANS 9:1 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL
START TO SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE READINESS.

I. THE READINESS, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW IN CHAPTER 9 VERSE 1, THE **CONJUNCTION "FOR" IS THE LINK THAT** CONTINUES THE THOUGHT EXPRESSED AT THE END OF CHAPTER 8.

* AND THAT IS BY FINISHING THEIR OFFERING THAT THEY STARTED EARLIER, THE CORINTHIANS WOULD DISPLAY, SHOW THEIR LOVE TO THE 3 BROTHERS PAUL WAS SENDING TO CORINTH TO COLLECT THEIR LOVE OFFERING, AND THEIR GENEROSITY WOULD VALIDATE **PAUL'S** BOASTING ABOUT THE WORK OF CHRIST IN THE CORINTHIANS.

** SO IN A SENSE, IT WAS SUPERFLUOUS, UNNECESSARY, NEEDLESS FOR PAUL TO WRITE ANY MORE ABOUT THIS OFFERING FOR THE POOR SAINTS OF JERUSALEM WHICH PAUL **CALLS "THIS MINISTRY TO THE SAINTS."**

*** AND GIVING WAS MINISTRY, IT WAS SERVICE, IT WAS LOVE IN ACTION TO HELP THEIR JERUSALEM BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHOM HAD GREAT PHYSICAL NEED BECAUSE OF FAMINE AND PERSECUTION.

**** SO GIVING IS DOING MINISTRY, IT IS MINISTERING FOR THE GLORY OF GOD. AND I WONDER HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED AT YOUR GIVING AS A FORM OF MINISTRY?

1. WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION, HOW FAITHFUL HAVE YOU BEEN IN THIS MINISTRY?

* WELL, FOR PAUL IT WAS SUPERFLUOUS, UNNECESSARY, NEEDLESS TO WRITE ANY MORE

ABOUT THIS SUBJECT OF GIVING, THIS MINISTRY IN A SENSE, FOR AGAIN, THE CORINTHIANS WERE WELL AWARE, WELL INFORMED ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON.

* BUT NOTE, PAUL STILL DOES WRITE TO THEM ABOUT THIS MINISTRY, IN FACT, ANOTHER CHAPTER.

** SO IS THIS CONTRADICTORY? THAT IT IS NOT NEEDFUL, BUT YET IT IS NEEDFUL.

*** WELL, VERSE 2 STARTS TO EXPLAIN WHAT PAUL IS REALLY DOING HERE.

B. READ V. 2. NOW IT WAS UNNECESSARY IN THE SENSE OF PAUL WRITING FURTHER TO THE CORINTHIANS ABOUT THE MINISTRY OF GIVING BECAUSE OF THEIR READINESS, PREPARATION AND ZEAL FOR THIS MINISTRY GOING BACK ABOUT A YEAR.

* IN OTHER WORDS, INITIALLY THE CORINTHIANS WERE ON BOARD WHOLEHEARTEDLY AND EXCITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS OFFERING FOR THEIR POOR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT JERUSALEM.

** THEY WERE READY, WILLING AND ABLE AND ON THE BANDWAGON FOR THIS OFFERING. FOR THE WORD READINESS LIT. MEANS ZEALOUS, EAGER AND INCLINED TO DO THIS.

*** THEY WERE READY TO GO AND EXCITED, ZEALOUS, AND STARTED TO TAKE UP THIS OFFERING A YEAR EARLIER, SINCE LAST YEAR.

**** AND THAT ORIGINALLY PROMPTED PAUL TO BOAST IN THE LORD FOR HIS WORK OF GRACE GIVING IN THE CORINTHIANS TO THE MACEDONIANS.

1. IT IS TO SAY, ORIGINALLY THE CORINTHIANS WERE THE MODELS TO THE MACEDONIANS IN SPURRING THEM ON TO GIVE SACRIFICIALLY, CHEERFULLY, HILARIOUSLY, OUT OF THEIR OWN DEEP POVERTY, BEGGING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MINISTRY OF GRACE.

* SO THE CORINTHIANS WERE THE ORIGINAL MODEL AND PAUL BOASTED TO THE MACEDONIANS ABOUT HOW THEY WERE REALLY GOING AFTER THIS MINISTRY.

** AND PAUL TALKED ABOUT THE CORINTHIANS TO THE MACEDONIANS BY MAKING REFERENCE TO ACHAIA, FOR ACHAIA WAS THE ROMAN PROVINCE THAT COMPRISED ALL OF SOUTHERN GREECE, WHICH THE CAPITAL OF THIS PROVINCE WAS CORINTH.

*** AND MACEDONIA WAS IN NORTHERN GREECE, AND THE PRIMARY CHURCHES WERE PHILIPPI, BEREIA AND THESSALONICA.

**** SO ORIGINALLY THE SOUTHERNERS WERE THE MODELS TO THE NORTHERNERS.

2. THEY HAD GREAT ZEAL, READINESS AND WERE PREPARED TO GIVE WHICH THEY STARTED, HOWEVER THEY DID NOT FINISH.

* AND ALTHOUGH THEY STARTED ABLAZE IN THEIR DESIRE TO GIVE, THEY DID NOT FINISH.

** AND IN THE BEGINNING THEY WERE MODELS, PAUL DID NOT NEED TO SAY ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THEM, THEY WERE MODELS TO THE MACEDONIANS, THEY SPRINTED OUT OF THE BLOCKS, BUT PAUL HAD TO WRITE MORE ABOUT THIS MINISTRY FOR UP TO THIS POINT THEY WERE NOT FINISHERS. AND GOOD INTENTIONS WERE NOT GOOD ENOUGH. LOOK AT V. 3 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 3. NOW THE REBELLION AGAINST PAUL INCITED BY THE FALSE TEACHERS LED TO MISTRUST OF PAUL, SO THE CORINTHIANS HALTED THEIR GIVING.

* THEREFORE PAUL SENT TITUS TO CORINTH WITH HIS SEVERE TEARFUL LETTER AND THE CORINTHIANS REPENTED OF THEIR SIN AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH PAUL WAS REESTABLISHED.

* NOW THEY WERE READY TO START GIVING AGAIN AND PAUL WANTS TO FINISH WHAT THEY STARTED, TO FINISH THEIR COLLECTION, THAT THEIR ORIGINAL READINESS AND ZEAL WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY COMPLETION, FULFILLING THEIR COMMITMENT, TO BE THE MODEL THAT THEY WERE AT THE BEGINNING.

** THEREFORE TO HELP MOTIVATE THEM AND GIVE ACCOUNTABILITY AND HAVE INTEGRITY, PAUL SENT 3 BROTHERS TO CORINTH FROM MACEDONIA TO INSURE THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO GIVE THEIR LOVE OFFERING.

*** AND AS WE LEARNED LAST WEEK, THE 3 BROTHERS WERE TITUS, THE EARNEST BROTHER, THEN TWO UNNAMED BROTHERS, THE EVANGELISTIC BROTHER AND THE EXAMINED BROTHER.

**** AND THEIR PURPOSE FOR GOING WAS ACCOUNTABILITY AND FOLLOW-UP, TO FINISH WHAT THEY STARTED AND NOT BE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO THE MACEDONIANS THAT WERE ORIGINALLY MOTIVATED BY THE CORINTHIANS TO GIVE.

1. AND THAT'S WHY PAUL SAYS HERE IN V. 3, "IN ORDER THAT, FOR THE PURPOSE THAT OUR BOASTING ABOUT YOU MAY NOT BE MADE EMPTY, OR IN VAIN."

* FOR PAUL HAD BOASTED IN THE LORD TO THE MACEDONIANS ABOUT THE CORINTHIANS **GRACE, THEIR MODEL, AND IF THEY DIDN'T FOLLOW THROUGH, WHAT A TERRIBLE STUMBLING BLOCK, A TERRIBLE MODEL THE CORINTHIANS WOULD HAVE BEEN.**

**** PAUL'S BOASTING IN THE LORD WOULD HAVE BEEN EMPTY AND IN VAIN.**

**** AND PAUL EXPANDS ON THIS IN V. 4. LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE.**

D. READ V. 4. NOW PAUL LATER WOULD GO TO CORINTH AGAIN HIMSELF. AND COMING FROM MACEDONIA, IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT OTHER MACEDONIANS WOULD TRAVEL WITH HIM.

* AND ACCORDING TO ACTS 20:2-4 IT APPEARS SOME MACEDONIANS DID ACCOMPANY PAUL TO CORINTH LATER ON.

**** AND IF PAUL HAD MACEDONIAN BROTHERS WITH HIM, THAT FOLLOW TITUS AND THE TWO OTHERS BROTHER'S VISIT TO COLLECT THE OFFERING, AND THEY HAD NOT FINISHED THEIR OFFERING, WHAT A TERRIBLE LET DOWN TO THOSE MACEDONIAN BROTHERS WHOM LOOKED UP TO THE CORINTHIANS.**

*** IT WOULD BE DEVASTATING, THE CORINTHIANS WOULD BE STUMBLING BLOCKS THAT WOULD DISCOURAGE THE MACEDONIANS.

**** PAUL SAYS, IF THEY FIND YOU **UNPREPARED, IF THEY FIND OUT YOU DIDN'T** FOLLOW THROUGH, WE, NOT TO SPEAK OF YOU, WILL BE PUT TO SHAME BY THIS CONFIDENCE.

1. IT IS TO SAY, PAUL, AND ESPECIALLY THE CORINTHIANS WOULD BE SHAMED, DISGRACED, THEY WOULD BLUSH FROM SPIRITUAL EMBARRASSMENT. THE MACEDONIANS WOULD BE LET DOWN AND COULD BECOME VERY DISCOURAGED AS A RESULT.

* FOR AGAIN, OUT OF THE BLOCKS, THE CORINTHIANS WERE ON FIRE ABOUT THIS MINISTRY, THIS OFFERING AND TO COME AND SEE JUST SMOKE, NO FIRE, NO COMPLETION, NO FOLLOW-UP, WOULD BE TERRIBLE FOR OTHER BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHOM SACRIFICED SO GREATLY.

** AND WE ARE REMINDED OF WHAT WE LEARNED LAST WEEK, IT DOES MATTER WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK AND THAT PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS WATCHING AND OUR LIVES ARE ALWAYS COMMUNICATING SOME KIND OF MESSAGE.

*** AND WE NEED TO BE COGNIZANT OF THAT.

**** AND THE CORINTHIANS NEEDED TO PUT THEIR MONEY WHERE THEIR MOUTHS WERE AND FINISH THIS OFFERING.

2. WORDS MUST BE FOLLOWED BY ACTIONS. AND THERE IS NO LOVE WITHOUT ACTIONS. LOVE IS KNOWN BY WHAT IT DOES, NOT BY WHAT IT SAYS. AND WE SHOULD BE KNOWN BY WHAT WE ARE, NOT JUST BY WHAT WE WERE. INTENTIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED UP BY ACTIONS.

* AND TO HELP THE CORINTHIANS FOLLOW UP, PAUL DOES WHAT HE WILL DO COMMUNICATED IN V. 5. LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE.

E. READ V. 5. NOW FOR THE REASONS I HAVE ALREADY COMMUNICATED IN VV. 1-4, PAUL THOUGHT IT NECESSARY FOR THE BRETHERN, TITUS AND THE TWO OTHER BROTHERS, TO GO ON AHEAD TO CORINTH AND ARRANGE AHEAD OF TIME THE CORINTHIANS PREVIOUSLY PROMISED BOUNTIFUL GIFT.

* AND IT APPEARS THAT ORIGINALLY, ABOUT A YEAR BEFORE, THE CORINTHIANS PROMISED A BOUNTIFUL GIFT, WHICH LIT. MEANS A GENEROUS GIFT, A LARGE GIFT.

** AND PAUL WANTED TO MAKE SURE THE CORINTHIAN HAD THIS GENEROUS GIFT READY WHEN THE 3 BROTHERS ARRIVED.

*** AND THIS WOULD GIVE THEM SOME ACCOUNTABILITY, SOME ENCOURAGEMENT TO FOLLOW THRU WITH WHAT THEY PREVIOUSLY PROMISED, THAT THIS BOUNTIFUL GIFT WOULD BE READY, AND GET THIS, NOT BE AFFECTED BY COVETOUSNESS.

**** WHICH IN APPLICATION, WHAT IS THE GREATEST HINDRANCE TO GIVING?

1. THE ANSWER IS COVETOUSNESS. I MEAN IT IS EASY TO GET EXCITED ABOUT MEETING A NEED CONCEPTUALLY, INTELLECTUALLY, OR EVEN EMOTIONALLY, BUT THE ACTION OF GIVING, THE ACTUAL DOING IT, CAN BE AFFECTED BY THE SIN OF COVETOUSNESS.

** AND THE NOUN COVETOUSNESS HERE LIT. MEANS GREED, LOVE OF MONEY, THE DESIRE TO HAVE MORE, AVARICE, AN INSATIABLE DESIRE FOR WEALTH OR GAIN.

*** AND FEW SINS ARE AS UGLY AS COVETOUSNESS, FOR FEW SINS MANIFEST SELFISHNESS AND PRIDE SO GRAPHICALLY AS GRASPING FOR MORE AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS, AND WHERE OUR HANDS ARE CLOSED RATHER THAN OPEN TO THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED THAT GOD BRINGS ACROSS OUR PATH.

**** **AND THAT'S WHY PAUL SAID TO TIMOTHY** IN I TIMOTHY 6:10&11 THESE WORDS: (QUOTE THEM). ALSO QUOTE PROVERBS 23:4&5.

2. NOW IT'S NOT WRONG TO BE RICH AND IT CAN BE A GREAT BLESSING TO THE CHURCH AND OTHERS THAT ARE NEEDY. BUT COVETING FOR MORE IS SIN. IF GOD BLESSES YOU WITH RICHES, PRAISE THE LORD, BUT LET IT NOT BE YOUR PASSION.

* WELL, COVETOUSNESS GETS IN THE WAY OF GIVING AND PAUL SENDS 3 BROTHERS FOR THE CORINTHIANS TO FINISH THEIR GIVING AND NOT TO GIVE THEMSELVES OVER TO COVETOUSNESS.

** SO READINESS WAS GOOD, BUT ACTIONS MUST FOLLOW. AND PAUL WILL FURTHER ENCOURAGE THE CORINTHIANS BY TALKING ABOUT REAPING WHAT WE SOW, THE REAPING. LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE.

II. THE REAPING, (READ V. 6)

A. NOW IN CONTRAST TO MAN-CENTERED SELF INDULGENCE, THE MEANS FOR SPIRITUAL BLESSING IS NOT GREEDY ACCUMULATION, BUT THE OPPOSITE, GENEROUS GIVING, SOWING BY GIVING.

* AND PAUL WILL USE A FAMILIAR AGRICULTURAL IMAGERY THAT IN AN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY WOULD HAVE BEEN CRYSTAL CLEAR TO THE AVERAGE PERSON.

** AND THAT IS THE LAW OF SOWING. AND EVERY FARMER WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE SIZE OF THE HARVEST IN NORMAL WEATHER WAS DIRECTLY PROPORTIONATE TO THE AMOUNT OF SEED SOWN.

*** AND THE FARMER WHO SOWS SEED SPARINGLY WILL REAP A SMALL HARVEST, BUT THE ONE WHO SOWS BOUNTIFULLY, GENEROUSLY WILL REAP A GREAT HARVEST.

**** AND IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM, HERE IS THE PRINCIPLE: GIVING TO GOD RESULTS IN BLESSINGS FROM GOD!

1. FOR THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED BOUNTIFULLY IS YOU, LOW, GEE-A FROM WHICH WE GET OUR ENGLISH WORD EULOGY. AND IN THIS CONTEXT THE WORD LIT. MEANS BLESSING, BENEFIT.

* BELOVED, GENEROUS GIVERS WILL REAP GENEROUS BLESSINGS FROM GOD, WHILE THOSE WHO ARE COVETOUS, WHO HOLD BACK **SELFISHLY FEARING LOSS WILL FORFEIT GOD'S BLESSING.**

** AS SCOTT HAFEMANN SAYS IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS AND I QUOTE: **"GOD GIVES BACK BLESSINGS TO THOSE WHO GIVE AS A MATTER OF BLESSING."**

*** AND THESE BLESSINGS MAY BE JOY, ENCOURAGEMENT, MATERIAL BLESSING AND SPIRITUAL BLESSING.

**** WE TRULY REAP WHAT WE SOW, IF WE SOW TO THE FLESH, WE REAP FLESHLY FRUITS, BAD FRUITS, BUT IF WE SOW TO THE SPIRIT, WE REAP SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.

2. FOR GALATIANS 6:7 SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

* THEN GALATIANS 6:8 - **"FOR THE ONE WHO SOWS TO HIS OWN FLESH WILL FROM THE FLESH REAP CORRUPTION, BUT THE ONE WHO SOWS TO THE SPIRIT WILL FROM THE SPIRIT REAP ETERNAL LIFE."** (QUOTE GALATIANS 6:9&10)

** SO THE LAWS OF SOWING AND REAPING ARE CLEAR.

*** AND THIS IS FURTHER ILLUSTRATED IN PROVERBS 3:9&10, PROVERBS 11:24&25, PROVERBS 19:17 AND LUKE 6:38. (QUOTE THEM)

**** AND UNDERSTAND THIS ABOUT GENEROUS GIVING. THE LAW OR THE PROMISE OF SOWING AND REAPING IS NOT THAT GOD WILL REWARD GENEROUS GIVERS SO THEY CAN CONSUME IT ON THEIR OWN DESIRES, BUT USE THOSE BLESSINGS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

***** IN FACT THE REQUIREMENT FOR PROPER SOWING OR GIVING IS GIVEN TO US IN V. 7, ONE FINAL POINT FOR TODAY. LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE.

III. THE REQUIREMENT, (READ V. 7)

A. NOW THE REQUIREMENT IN GIVING TO THE POOR SAINTS IN JERUSALEM IN THAT DAY, AND IN APPLICATION IN GIVING TODAY, IS EACH BELIEVER MUST DO JUST AS HE HAS PURPOSED IN HIS HEART.

* GIVING SHOULD NOT BE FORCED OR COERCED OR DONE TO PLEASE PAUL IN THAT DAY, OR PRESSURED BY TITUS AND THE 2 OTHER BROTHERS THAT WILL BE SENT TO THEM.

** IT SHOULD BE PURPOSED IN THE HEART, AND THE VERB PURPOSED HERE IS USED ONLY ONE TIME IN THE N.T. AND LIT. MEANS PREDETERMINED.

*** MEANING, THOUGH THERE SHOULD BE SPONTANEOUS JOY IN GIVING, IT IS STILL PLANNED AND SYSTEMATIC, NOT IMPULSIVE, NOT LED BY EMOTION OR LACK OF EMOTION, AND NOT SPORADIC.

**** IT IS TO BE PURPOSED, PRAYED ABOUT, AND HAVING A HEART LED BY THE SPIRIT WE DETERMINE WHAT TO GIVE AS WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED.

1. BUT ALSO, WE ARE NOT TO GIVE GRUDGINGLY WHICH LIT. MEANS WITH PAIN, GRIEF OR SORROW, ANNOYANCE OR TO BE MOURNING OVER IT.

* * MEANING GIVING IS NOT TO BE DONE WITH REGRET, RELUCTANCE OR REMORSE OVER PARTING WITH WHAT IS GIVEN.

**** YOU DON'T COME THROWING IT IN THE OFFERING AND CRYING IT HURTS SO BADLY.**

*** NOR ARE WE TO GIVE UNDER COMPULSION, BEING COERCED, PRESSURED IN A LEGALISTIC **MINDLESS HEARTLESS WAY. WE DON'T DO IT** OUT OF LAW BUT LOVE. IT IS NOT PRESSURE BUT WITH PURPOSE FOR GOD AND HIS GLORY AND HIS GIVING US HIS SON AND GIVING US GRACE EACH DAY. IT IS LOVE, LOVE, LOVE!

**** IN FACT, THE GIVING THAT GOD WANTS COMES FROM A CHEERFUL HILARIOUS HEART.

2. IT COMES FROM HAPPY JOYOUS GIVERS, WHO ARE JOYOUS, VERY HAPPY, LAUGHING WITH JOY IN VIEW OF THE PRIVILEGE OF GIVING.

* AND THOSE KINDS OF GIVERS ARE THE **SPECIAL OBJECTS OF GOD'S LOVE. GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER!**

IN WRAP UP: (1) AS GIVING IS ALWAYS A HEART ISSUE, SO OUR LOVE IS MEASURED BY OUR GIVING.

* GIVING SHOULD BE SOMETHING WE LOOK **FORWARD TO ON THE LORD'S DAY, OR IN** HELPING A DEAR BROTHER OR SISTER THAT GOD HAS BROUGHT ACROSS OUR PATHS IN HIS PROVIDENCE.

** AND WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE TO GIVE WITH A COLD HEART, WITHOUT LOVING, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO LOVE WITHOUT GIVING.

*** GOD GIVES HIS SON TO ALL TRUE BELIEVERS,
AND AS I SAID EARLIER, GOD BLESSES IN A
UNIQUE WAY, A SPECIAL WAY, GENEROUS
CHEERFUL GIVING.

(2) IN APPLICATION, HOW DOES YOUR GIVING
TO OUR LORD LINE UP WITH THE INSTRUCTION
WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM GOD'S WORD?

* DO YOU PRAY AND PURPOSE IN YOUR HEART
TO GIVE, SOWING WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU
GENEROUSLY BACK TO HIM AND LIBERALLY
RECEIVING A BLESSING BACK FROM HIM?

** OR ARE YOU STINGY AND COVETOUS?

*** WHAT TURNS YOUR CRANK, WHAT GETS YOU
GOING? IS IT LOVE OR LAW? IS GIVING A JOY?
DO YOU DO IT HILARIOUSLY?

**** OR DO YOU GIVE GRUDGINGLY OR UNDER
COMPULSION?

3. BELOVED, LET US GROW IN GRACE GIVING
OUT OF OUR LOVE FOR OUR SAVIOR AND LOVE
FOR ONE ANOTHER. (LET'S PRAY)

v. 1 – FOR IT IS SUPERFLUOUS FOR ME TO WRITE
TO YOU ABOUT THIS MINISTRY TO THE SAINTS;

v. 2 - FOR I KNOW YOUR READINESS, OF WHICH I BOAST ABOUT YOU TO THE MACEDONIANS, NAMELY, THAT ACHAIA HAS BEEN PREPARED SINCE LAST YEAR, AND YOUR ZEAL HAS STIRRED UP MOST OF THEM.

v. 3 - BUT I HAVE SENT THE BRETHREN,
IN ORDER THAT OUR BOASTING ABOUT YOU
MAY NOT BE MADE EMPTY IN THIS CASE,
SO THAT, AS I WAS SAYING, YOU MAY
BE PREPARED;

v. 4 - OTHERWISE IF ANY MACEDONIANS COME WITH ME AND FIND YOU UNPREPARED, WE—NOT TO SPEAK OF YOU—WILL BE PUT TO SHAME BY THIS CONFIDENCE.

v. 5 - SO I THOUGHT IT NECESSARY TO URGE
THE BRETHREN THAT THEY WOULD GO
ON AHEAD TO YOU AND ARRANGE
BEFOREHAND YOUR PREVIOUSLY
PROMISED BOUNTIFUL GIFT, SO THAT THE
SAME WOULD BE READY AS A BOUNTIFUL
GIFT AND NOT AFFECTED BY COVETOUSNESS.

v. 6 - NOW THIS I SAY, HE WHO
SOWS SPARINGLY WILL ALSO REAP
SPARINGLY, AND HE WHO SOWS
BOUNTIFULLY WILL ALSO REAP BOUNTIFULLY.

v. 7 -EACH ONE MUST DO JUST AS HE HAS
PURPOSED IN HIS HEART, NOT GRUDGINGLY OR
UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A
CHEERFUL GIVER.

