

EBC – Adult Bible Study
“Spirit Empowered, Godly Living in an Ungodly World”
2019-2020

VII. The Leading of the Spirit in Giving – 2 Cor 8-9

A. Some Historical Background on Tithing

1. Abram when he meets Melchizedek– Ge 14
 - a. Returns with Lot and the captives from Sodom
 - b. The king of Sodom and Melchizedek, priest of the most-high God come out to meet him
 - i. Gives Melchizedek a tithe of all that was recovered - Heb 7:2, 4
 - ii. The king of Sodom offers the rest to Abram
 - iii. Abram refuses looking to God and God alone for provision
2. The tithe instituted by the law for the Levites provision in place of an inheritance of land – Nu 18; Heb 7:5
3. By not giving their tithes, they were robbing God of what was His – Mal 3
4. The giving of the tithe did not mean that one’s heart was right with God - Mt 23:23; Lu 11:42
5. Tithing is taught in many churches as a way of keeping the church provided for with the promise of returned multiplied blessing – Lk 6:38

B. Historical Background on 2 Cor 8-9

1. The Jerusalem Church had a problem with extreme poverty from its conception
 - a. Consisted largely of pilgrims
 - b. Had quick large growth
 - i. 3000 on day one – Acts 2:41
 - ii. Had 5000 men by Acts 4
 - c. Also suffered b/c of Persecution
 - d. Also suffered b/c of economic climate of the region due to Roman taxation
 - e. The Church tried to help the poor with its limited resources
2. Paul tried to help by taking up a collection from other churches
 - a. in Asia Minor and Europe – Ro 15:25-27
 - b. in Corinth – 1 Co 16:1-4
 - i. Apparently asked them to participate while ministering there
 - ii. Reminded them in 1 Co 16
 - iii. They had rebelled against Paul and the offering had stopped
 - iv. 2 Co 8-9 was an effort to get it going again

C. Paul’s Teaches a great deal on giving in the NT, Our study is just 2 Co 8-9

1. Paul uses the Macedonian churches to motivate Corinth to get back to their commitment – vs 1-8
 - a. Giving like all spiritual gifts, is motivated by God’s grace – vs 1
 - b. That grace was demonstrated through their giving – vs 2-6

- i. They gave in great affliction – vs 2a
 - ii. They gave with joy – vs 2b
 - iii. Their giving was self-sacrificing and generous – vs 2c-d; 3b
 - iv. Their giving was voluntary – vs 3c-4
 - v. Their giving was an act of worship – vs 5a
 - vi. Their giving was submission to Pastors – vs 5b-6
- 2. Paul turns his attention to the Corinthians
 - a. They abounded with other Christian virtues – vs 7a
 - b. He wanted their giving to work together with other Christian virtues – vs 7b
 - c. Their return to their commitment was proof of love – vs 8
 - d. He uses Christ's example as motivation – vs 9
 - e. Fulfilling their commitments is beneficial to them – vs 10-11
 - i. They wanted to do it
 - ii. They needed to finish it
 - f. Their giving should be done according to what one has – vs 11b-12
 - g. Their giving was not to be a burden, but to help those that had less – vs 13-15
 - h. Their giving was submission to pastoral leadership – vs 16-17
- 3. Paul gives the importance of accountability with handling the gifts – vs 18-24
 - a. Those handling the gifts are those whose praise is in the gospel – vs 18
 - b. Men chosen by the church to remove the possibility of blame – vs 19-20
 - c. Being honorable before God and men – vs 21
 - d. Men who have shown themselves diligent – vs 22-23
 - e. Finish what you started – vs 24
- 4. Exhortation with Motivation – 9:1-5
 - a. You know the subject – vs 1
 - b. Paul has boasted about their commitment – vs 2-
 - i. Boasted in Macedonia about Achaia
 - ii. That the gift was ready a year ago
 - iii. Their zeal has stirred up the majority
 - c. Sent some so that when he came their gift would be ready – vs 3-5a
 - i. Warning them so they would be ready
 - ii. Don't want them or him embarrassed
 - iii. Wanted their giving to be voluntary not obligatory – 5b
- 5. Principles for giving – vs 6-7
 - a. Of sowing and reaping – sparingly/bountifully – vs 6
 - b. Of giving as one purposes in their heart – vs 7
 - i. not grudgingly or of necessity;
 - ii. for God loves a cheerful giver.