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If you've got a copy of the outline, Uh, we're still on two a in the second part there.

Second Corinthians 8, through 9. Uh, we got through chapter 8 last week, seeing that the opportunity in the church's corporate. Giving, especially Not now, just as individuals are transformed and loved brother and love neighbor with material things. But sometimes there are needs that are themselves corporate in church to church-giving sometimes.

There are needs that are locally corporate. Such as what we saw in galatians 6 6 through 10. And will come to again. In first Timothy. That those who But whom the lord has given much to the congregation in terms of. Spiritual ministry. Spiritual food. That The congregation then, collects corporately, and in order to Uh, provide for their earthly needs and that and we saw that that was even Some of the thought behind the gentile churches and god's province, at this particular time, having some of the things of this world even though they were in poverty themselves.

But having more than The churches in judea and recognizing that the gospel has not just come to them through the preaching of particular men within their congregations. But that the people Of israel were the ones through whom christ came, and the ones through whom the scriptures were preserved. And that there is this response to god for his mercy and spiritual things by use of material things, even by that corporate giving And so there's this, uh, corporate giving and Uh, we'll hope to Uh, get to collecting.

When we think about corporate giving, when we're done with chapter 9, but we saw last week that this demonstrated, the grace that was at work in them, that is an imitation of god's grace, to them. God being the one who has given The indescribable gift, the great gift and the lord jesus, who though he was rich was made poor for us.

It was A display. Now of the church, As. As a display of the character of christ as a body, just as each christian. Hopes to be a display of the character of christ's individually. We saw the necessity. Of not just commitment. And desire. Uh, Uh, but also of follow through.

That what they had? Desired to do a year prior that they would now complete that they would do and so much of the christian life. So much of the nitty gritty of the christian life is bound up, isn't it in follow, through on our commitment? Uh, you know, christian is one who knows that god who made all these things has saved us in christ.

Christian is one who has been conformed to christ. We have that law of our mind that we've been hearing about in, in the midweek, sermons, in Romans and the end of chapter 7 and In the beginning of chapter 8 and so we do have these purposes and promises and vows that we make to god these desires.

And yet so much of the christian life is, is involved in the follow through, on those desires that we don't just desire, according to the spirit of life. Who is in us? So that we may walk. We don't just desire according to the spirit of life who is in us, but that desire is said that we may walk According to the righteous requirements of god's law by the spirit of life, who is in us.

So we had follow through and then we had the accountability. That particular men were designated whose character was known and and his character was attested to all. And now paul is sending men. Back to them. Who's, who's character? Paul witnesses, to the fact that god is the one who will produce the fruit that we may have.

A desire to give a certain quantity. Uh, but what we have comes from god, and so, You know, i may wish that i could give millions of dollars to the planting of reformed. Churches. Uh, In. South Sudan and you know, hire a private christian army to defend them and all the things that That would be helpful for.

The stability and worship and training. That part another part of my life was Devoted to, but i didn't have millions of dollars to give I had some knowledge of the bible and theological training and And the congregation and a family who are willing to send me. And so you give according to what you have because god is the one who produces the fruit of it anyway, And so, So, we don't get discouraged by how little we have to give We give according to what god in his providence has has given us to be able to have Which means you don't have to wait till you grow up.

Do you children each of you have time and you have You do have some things and you have family, and those whom you interact with and all the different things that god has put into your life. Even now our assignments from him. And one of the things that you might think, as i mistakenly thought, when i was a child, was that when i was when i was bigger, i would have all of the things that i wanted to have in order to be able to do and i wasn't As godly as i hope you are but for me it was in order to be able to do all the things that i wanted.

Uh, for myself or And then later. Uh, for the lord as the lord grew me. About one of the things that i've discovered in life is the gap between what you wish you had, so that you could employ it regardless of whether it's for yourself, or for the Lord.

And the gap between that which you wish you had so that you could employ it and what you actually have. It can be significant but what you actually have has been selected for you. By the god who intends to use you and what he has given you for his use.

And so this is this is one of the cheat keys to christianity as a young child. Is that you already now? Have what god has purposed for you to have at this point in your life. And so plan to use it in the service of the lord jesus does not just a gift from him, but therefore an assignment from him and then use it.

And ask mom and dad to help you and they will be much encouraged and maybe not a little bit rebuked that that we don't feel. The same way consistently like we should, but we will walk all then with the Lord together. Uh, yes, dave. I'm reminded of the great American theologian.

Got the networks. He said we do. They are here. Yes, i I am forgotten about a lot of things. You are reminded davis aging, well and beautifully. I am often amazed at Um, How much harder it is for me to learn. How difficult it is for me to recall things that i know that i know.

Uh, but can't can't retrieve them. Um, And, Kids, you have no idea how smart you are. Right now. Uh, you are not going to get smarter. When you get older, you may have more information and bless God. By his grace to you, you would have more wisdom but you will not get smarter.

And you will not have more time. And there are so many things in your younger years. That that are the best years of your life. Do not waste them. On worldly worldly pursuits. Um, Anyway, we're still in review so i'm gonna i'm gonna apply ahead. Uh, so there's that all of that is under the word theism.

Uh, right there in number three. If you're following under the accountability, designation attestation theism transparency. Uh, you know, record keeping is a good thing. People ought to be able to ask. Where did that money go? And there ought to be answers from those who are charged in the church with, with leading an administering and applying that money, they ought to be able to answer exactly where that money went.

Uh that's not a worldly thing. That is a upright godly integrity and transparency. Thing. Uh, in the church. We don't say trust me. We say, trust god. Um, So it's a different version of Reagan's trust but verify, right? You trust god and so you could trust entirely. And we love one another and we give each other a judgment of charity.

Uh, but yes. Verification glorifies christ by integrity and so forth. So that brings us Uh, to the points of diligence, which we have in the first five verses Of chapter 9 and dependence and delight. Which we have in the rest of chapter 9. So, second Corinthians chapter 9, now concerning the ministering to the saints.

It is superfluous for me to write to you for. I know your willingness about which i both of you to the Macedonians So he has boasted of the massive Macedonians to them and reminded them. At the end. Uh, he busted to the Macedonians and the beginning of chapter 18, he reminded them at the end of chapter 8 that he has been boasting of them to the Macedonians And one of the things now that that he has been Um, Boasting is not just their love h24 but the willingness then that comes out of that love.

In verse verse 2. So willingness is the first part of diligence. Promptness eagerness going to the task with as we say with a good will This is something that i know, all of you children are working on in your obedience to mom and dad. And in the other obedience that you have to the lord, That if you're not just doing what you're told because you'll get good outcomes or avoid bad outcomes, Right.

Hopefully your life has set up so that if you do what is right, you will enjoy blessing for it. And if you do it is wrong. Um, your bottom will be warm and there will be other negative consequences. Uh, But that is not the primary reason. The reason for the warming of the bottom is, there's somebody who uses that just like he uses the instruction from his word, to give you a different sort of heart.

And your commanded to obey your parents in the lord. Well, Diligence starts with willingness. One of the things that you want to do is to be willing To obey mom and dad that you would be bothered not that you have to do something that you don't want to do.

But that what you want to do, didn't change the moment, you were told to do something else. Right. That's that's what you're after. Not that mom would tell me to do something that i didn't want to do. And i would still not want to do it but do it anyway, just because mom said, so, but that when mom told me to do something else because jesus gave me my mom and i belonged to him and then united to him by faith.

And he is the one who says, never the last not what i will, but what you will, and what god wills is, then what he will. God, jesus did not go to the cross unwillingly, did he? Right? So you want willingness and so it doesn't bother you. So much that you have to do, what you don't want to do, what bothers you is that you didn't suddenly want to do it.

So you want to do something, mom tells you to to do something else and you And you. What you desire from the lord? What you see from the lord is that What you want would change? And now you want to do whatever, mom said, And that's what makes you prompt.

So willingness is the first part of diligence and this also applies doesn't it to our giving as it does here. And this is one of the things that are elders and pastors need to teach us about. You know, there's a lot there, isn't there about regeneration and how things go on in our hearts Um, And spiritually.

But then there's follow through that comes from the willingness and our deacons help us with the follow follow through. Uh, so there is, uh, willingness is the first part of diligence, i know you're willingness about which i supposed to be to the Macedonians that okay was ready a year ago and your zeal has stirred up the majority.

Yet i have sent the brethren. These are the attested men that we were talking about, just a moment ago, lest i've boasting, if you should be vain in vain, and this respect that us. As i said, you may be ready. Okay, so willingness is just the start of diligence.

Right, so you, you obey Cheerfully and right away. You know, there's there's the willingness part, but You know, you don't all have the same refrain the That we do in our house, i just realized in our house it was right away all the way and cheerfully. And then, And then we were preaching through the ten commandments for a year in when he got to the fifth commandment, we added every time and even when mom's not looking Um, but right away all the way into cheerfully that all the way part is also part of diligence, isn't it?

And so paul has boasted, you know the the Corinthians the acans actually did to use videos, said here, the Akians are eager and willing to give And yet willingness is only the first part of diligence. He says now be ready by the time they come. By the time, the men who carry this letter.

Um, Uh, between the time that the men who carry the The letter, get to you and the men who collect Get to you. Uh, you have a window in order to finish the the collection. Uh, And we'll, Lord helping us get there in a moment. So Uh not just willingness but then diligence to be ready to do things on time.

Uh, to make due dates and announce dates. This too is part of. Integrity. List of some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared. We not to mention you should be ashamed of this confident boasting. Therefore i thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, to go to you ahead of time and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised that it may be ready as a matter of generosity.

And not as a grudging obligation. In other words, one of the things that proves willingness is the follow-through of diligence. Because if they get there, and it's not collected yet, Um, then it's similar to how often? Uh, we feel when we come before god and rather than desiring good things from him and then doing the desiring to do good things for him.

And then doing independence upon his grace, the good things that we have desired to do, how is it when you come before god and you haven't followed through. You're ashamed before him, aren't you? And rightly. So and you find him as gracious and forgiving as he has ever been And, And the fact that he is so loving.

And so merciful towards you just makes what you have done worth and stirs up, new zeal and new love for the god. Zeros out as it were. The tension between you so that you can serve him. But you don't want to come to him. Not having done. What you have desired?

And those who are in the spirit actually walk, according to the spirit. This is something that That is really lost in our You know, little a antinomian Age, is that there's an actual difference. In

christians, mortifying sin is mortifying all. Of sin. Uh, And, We ought to be often coming before god thankful to him, that he sustained us by grace in fulfilling.

Our vows, in walking in obedience and walking in holiness Uh, the whole of christian likes should not be in this repeated cycle of shame. It should be primarily in marveling that god has done in you through christ with the law could not do because it was weakened by the flesh.

But now you are in the spirit and you are walking differently. That's a big part of the christian life, and so, yeah. You can continue to pay attention as we We get that in the first half. Of romans 8 in the midweek sermons or you can read Owen or goodwin on Antinomianism and mortifying sin and And walking with god, and All of that, good stuff.

But there is this diligence. Uh, that ought to Ought to characterize. Our corporate giving. And then, There is dependence. That god. Makes not just the external grace abound in which he has given us stuff that we may give, but that he is able also to make the internal grace around so that we use whatever external things he's given us in the way that we should.

So he says, but this i say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and he who sows bound to flea, will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or necessity. For god, loves a cheerful giver. And god is able to make all grace around towards you.

And so you don't say all right, god, By the sheer force of of my will and my good intentions. I am going to be a cheerful giver Because already, that's kind of Um, Yes, during up from within yourself and it's already kind of got that grudging and of necessity attitude doesn't it?

So what god loves the cheerful giver god gives the cheerfulness to the giver. Okay, so So even the diligence that we are looking for, we look for it from god, diligence must be married, then to dependence. And this will produce delight. And god is able to make all grace event towards you.

That you always having all sufficiency, in all things may have an abundance for every good work. So one of the things that a deacon who oversees this ministry does, Is. He has. Thanks, thanksgiver in chief. In which he reports to the congregation that that we have followed through that god has given not just the resources, but also the grace that has produced the follow through.

And then, he may also. Report having administered, the gift the thanksgiving that came to god. Uh, by others, who were the ones who received the material things. Um, we're getting a little ahead of ourselves. Let's read more of the text. God is able to make grace around towards you, that you always having all sufficiency and all things.

Okay, lest you thought that Making all grace about towards you as primarily financial because we don't always have all money. We always have as much as God wants us to have. Uh, but He's, he's talking about grace in the heart and whatever portion. That we have may have an abundance for every good work.

As it is written. He has dispersed abroad, he has given to the poor, his righteousness endorsed forever. Now, may he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food supply and multiply the seed that you have sown And increase the fruits of your righteousness. While you are enriched in everything for all.

Liberality or generosity which causes thanksgiving through God. For the administration of this service. Not only supplies the needs of the saints. But also as a bounding through many

thanksgiving's to god, And so the deacon is not just reminding the ones who are giving of the grace of god that is at work, in them, to give them willingness, to give them diligence, to give them follow through.

But he also, as he gives the as he administers as he distributes or overseas distribution. He is often reminding those who are receiving. That god provided this to the person who gave it And now god has providing it to you through the person that he gave it to first.

And now you're the second person he gave it to and god provided in christ, the grace in the hearts of the people who gave it. And so we see here, the not just triple but the multiple generosity of God because there's a lot more That he can point. Point out as well, often those who are in distress, One of the.

Dangers of their distress is discouragement and anxiety. But there is so much grace involved. In. In the whole. In the whole complex of giving and collecting and administering. That one of the important parts. Of the The deaconate is to lead all of us in seeing the grace of christ.

At work. In his church. Um, Uh, but also, as abounding through many thanksgivings to god while Through the proof of this ministry. They glorify god for the obedience of your confession, to the gospel of christ and for your liberal that is generous sharing with them and all men and by their prayer for you.

Who long for you because of the exceeding grace of god in you. And so, Uh, as happens. Um, Yeah, some of you know that That we had a home that was Extremely generously provided for us. By the family of a church member. Uh, in iowa. And one of the things that that resulted in was we literally could not think about our home without remembering him, and why he gave it.

And all of the things that he and His wife desired from the lord as far as the work of his grace and them, and And there was much. Uh, praying for him. You know, it was humbling. Uh, to to receive. Gifts that way. But there's also a knitting together, then.

Of longing, for affection, for and prayer. For one another. And so he concludes And this is especially with reference to christ, the great gift. But then the thanksgiving to god that we have through christ, and the affection for and longing for and prayer, for and mutual enjoyment of grace in one another That comes to us from god in christ.

And so that's the great conclusion. Chapter 9 verse 15. Thanks be to god. For his indescribable. Gift. I know it's A little bit early and we started. A little bit late. But we're not really going to make much headway on. Uh, collections. If we start now, So, Uh, any thoughts any questions?

Um, You see how this is really something to to work with our children on the very opposite the way the flesh thinks about things. And, While our little ones hearts are saplings and not oaks. Uh, It is good to bend by much reference to what god is doing and has done for us.

And how we can demonstrate that as particularly in what we do with earthly things. Yes, Justin. What are some bad cool ways. The winds of congregation can store that up towards one another.

Well, one is to. Attend upon the means of grace together. And to have our fellowship. Um, center on what god has done for us and is doing in us. Um, You know, in our context there is not that much earthly need Another is. That when we do find earthly need and yeah, this might be something.

That our deaconate does. They, they might want to. Um, Track down a reformed church in Pakistan, for instance. Um, For various reasons and I know this is getting recorded but who knows who will listen to it if anybody Um, I would not recommend giving directly through or giving indirectly through world witness.

Uh, but there is a synod, an ARP synod in Pakistan, that is larger than the ARP scattered in the US. And, Um, I'm already hearing myself signing up to Help help find one. But as you as you can tell, even in the US senate, there's great variance. Isn't there?

And devotion to God and adherence to what we confess and And doing things in His church. The way He says to do. So something we might do is find a like-minded congregation. In Pakistan and corporately give to one another and keep up with them. And have this. Mutual gratitude to God for.

For His work, in one of that would be You know, almost apples to apples was second Corinthians, eight and nine. Uh, but as, as far as for one another You know, it would be wonderful if Uh, we had Uh, just a A congregational value of thinking of others, first for the sake of Christ.

Yeah, so that when we talk to our children about, yeah, when you notice the best stuff in the line, Yeah. Take take enough to taste but take with With a hope. That everyone else will. Will get to enjoy. Uh, you don't leave trash out. Um, Yeah. I don't mind.

For myself personally, picking up cups and plates and forks from every corner of this building throughout the week. Yeah. So that by the time, the routers get here on Saturday to clean up Uh, yeah. There's there's not like three glasses and in different stages of separation studying on the drinking fountain and And all the other.

But this idea of Treating everything as a gift from God. That a big way of using it. Well, is to think of others. Well. And if it doesn't happen at home, it's not going to magically happen. When you get to church isn't Right? So we don't have our house rules so that Mom doesn't have to clean up the mess and so that Uh, we won't be humiliated if somebody comes over and, you know, they're all these different reasons why children feel like we're doing the things that we do.

All right, so we have to be intentional about teaching this. Grace of Christ in me to the glory of Christ. Um, Motivation and desire in the home for why we do things in the home. And then multiple families coming and doing that together. A church family value, that is a Christ, family value in the household becomes, a church family value.

That is a Christ's family value in the congregation. Um, so it's a good question as As far as application goes. But these are things that again. Uh, We become forgetful of and it's easy to slide out of And there happens to be in the wisdom of God towards us and entire office of the church.

That is for the overseeing of those things. So that the deacons don't just say. Hey, why aren't we picking up after ourselves? Or, you know, please don't stuff the lotus bush. With things. There's honeysuckle bush. I don't know what that whatever that is in the corner. Um, By the way, those of you who are in law enforcement, it's been used before as A drop exchange place.

I had never gone and investigated what was dropped and what was picked up a few minutes later. Uh, but I would generally not recommend Sticking your hand in there. Um, But sorry.

Weird bunny trail. The deacons don't just say, do this and do that so we can have it clean so it can be nice.

That visitors. Will be impressed, you know, whatever it is. But that they're also reminding us of Uh, the grace in christ, the that transforms us. And that gets the glory If that is our purpose. In what we do? So, there's a real spiritual leadership in the deaconate, i guess.

It's Uh, one of the things you could pray for me. Um, Some people have. Written. Some disturbing things in the wake of the standard. Uh, I have an article that is due. August 2nd. And i intend to make the case from Westminster confession 26. That it is inconsistent with our standards.

To say that the office of the deaconate is one of service, but not of authority. Um, Because they anyway, That too is a bunny trail, but not too much of a bunny trail. Uh, because we desire not just for hope well. To have a rejuvenated rebooted deaconet with a multi-generational goal.

Of doing things according to God's work. We want that for our presbytery. We want that for our center, we want that for all of Christ's church. All right. Well, now we are long. So let's pray. Our gracious gardener heavenly father, we're so grateful to you. For your indescribable gift of christ, and then in him, All that you have given us and your spirit dwelling in us and being a spirit of life unto us that we may live unto God in union with the resurrected one.

Thank you for the way all of your word ties in together and has been Helping us as we learn these things. Give us, we pray the follow through. Oh lord. If you would bless what we have been doing, particularly to these children. Uh, we we look forward. Um, The glory of jesus.

In following generations. That come out of this church and we pray even multiplying churches. Uh we do pray also as we were just thinking about for our sister churches and the Presbytery and the senate And in your church more. Um, more broadly as well. Glorified christ. We pray by your spirit's effective and powerful application of him.

To those who you are, redeeming, we ask in his name, amen.