

**“The Goals For Our Giving”**  
**2 Corinthians 8:13-17**

**Introduction:**

1. This Morning - We Are Going To Continue:
  - Our Study Of 2 Corinthians:
    - So Please Turn In Your Bibles With Me Once Again:
      - To 2 Corinthians 8 - Where The Apostle Paul:
        - Has Been Speaking To Us About:
          - Christian Giving!
  - As We Saw Last Week:
    - From 1 Corinthians:
      - This Was Not A New Concept:
        - For The Corinthian Church!
2. In Fact - About A Year Earlier:
  - Paul Had Written To Them:
    - About A Special Collection:
      - He Was Taking Up For The Poor Christians:
        - In The Church Of Jerusalem:
          - Who Were Experiencing Severe Persecution & Severe Poverty!
  - At First - The Corinthians:
    - Were Excited About This Opportunity:
      - To Give - But Because Of:
        - Sin & Strife:
          - Their Ambition To Give Turned Into Apathy - And The Collection Came To A Screeching Halt!
3. But - After Paul Confronted The Corinthian Church:
  - About Their Sin:
    - There Was True Repentance:
      - And A Renewed Interest In This Special:
        - Love Offering - And This Is What 2 Corinthians 8-9 Are All About!
  - And In The Verses We Come To This Morning:
    - Paul Explains To Them:
      - And To Us - Some Of The Primary Goals:
        - For Our Giving!
4. Perhaps You've Heard The Old Adage:
  - “If You Aim At Nothing - You'll Hit It Every Time!”
    - Well - There Were Some Special Goals:
      - That God Himself Has:
        - For Us As We Give!
  - And We Find Three Of These Goals:
    - In 8:13-17 - “For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: / But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: / As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack. / But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you. / For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you!”
5. Put Simply - The Goals For Our Giving Are:
  - Sharing / Supplying / Serving:
    - The Needs Of God's People!
      - Let's Look At These Goals More Closely!

\* The First Goal For Our Giving Is:

1. ***To Share Our Needs As Christians!***
  - Which We Find In 8:13-14!
    - Now - Even Though Paul Has Been:
      - Encouraging Us To Give:
        - With Fervency & Faithfulness:

- We Must Never Forget That Christian Giving Is Always A Matter Of The Heart!
- This Is Why In 8:12 - Paul Reminds Us:
  - “For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not!”
  - Christian Giving Is Not Meant To Be A Burden:
    - On God’s People!
- And So - In 8:13 - He Addresses What Might Have Become:
- The Problem Of Christian Sharing!
  - 8:13 - “For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened!”
  - God Did Not Design Our Giving So That:
    - Those Who Are Rich:
      - Become Poor - And So That:
    - Those Who Are Poor:
      - Become Rich!
  - Instead:
    - When We Are In The Position:
      - To Give:
        - We Give Based On Our Ability To Give!
    - But When We Are In The Position:
      - To Receive:
        - We Are To Receive Based On Our Basic Needs!
  - And This Leads Us To:
- The Principle Of Christian Sharing!
  - Which We Find Stated Twice In 8:14:
    - It Is The Principle Of:
      - “Equality!”
  - “But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality!”
  - Now - Paul Is Not Here Advocating:
    - Economic Equality Among Christians Or A System Of Christian Communism Or Even Christian Socialism:
      - Which Some Have Claimed In Looking At This Principle!
  - Even Jesus Said:
    - “For Ye Have The Poor With You Always!”
    - In The Providence Of God - There Will Always Be Some Who Are Richer Than Others & Some Who Are Poorer Than Others!
  - But For The Church Of Jesus Christ:
    - This Becomes An Opportunity For Us:
      - In The Words Of Charles Hodge - To Provide “Equal Relief From The Burden Of Want!”
      - We Need To Make Sure That Our Eyes Are Open To The Basic Needs Of Others!
        - Not Only Spiritual - But Physical & Material!
  - And This Leads Us To:
- The Purposes Of Christian Sharing!
  - Giving & Meeting The Needs:
    - Of The Christian Community:
      - Is Meant To Foster A Greater Unity & Fellowship With Each Other!
  - 8:14 - “That now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want!”
  - Paul Mentions “At This Time” The Corinthians Were Better Off Than Many Other Christian Communities! But This Does Not Mean That It Will Always Stay This Way! Circumstances May Change, But Our Care For Each Other Should Always Stay The Same!
  - And So - When We Give:
    - It Shows Our:
      - Love & Affection For Each Other!
      - As Christ Loves Us, So We Ought To Love Each Other! And As Christ Gave

Himself For Us, So We Ought To Give Ourselves For Each Other!

- It Shows Our:

- Unity With Each Other!

- That We Are In This All Together!

- Galatians 3:27-29 - "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. / There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. / And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise!"

- We Are All Part Of The Body Of Christ! We Need To Care For The Needs Of Each Other!

- Because - It Shows Our:

- Fellowship In Jesus Christ!

- And This Is The First Goal For Our Giving:

- To Share Our Needs As Christians!

- This Means That You Can Be A Blessing:

- To Others - With The Blessings:

- God Has Given You!

- **Be A Blessing:**

- **With Your Blessings!**

- And Share The Needs Of One Another!

- And In The Next Verse - Paul Illustrates This Sharing:

- By Looking Back To The Old Testament - But Also Revealing To Us:

\* The Second Goal For Our Giving - Which Is:

2. **To Supply The Needs Of Christians!**

- Which We Find In 8:15:

- "As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack!"

- Of Course - This Refers Back:

- To The Time In The History Of God's People - When He Gave To Them:

- "Manna From Heaven!"

- And The Verse Paul Quotes:

- Is Found In Exodus 16 - Which Tells Us:

- About The First Time God Provided This "Bread From Heaven" To Meet His People's Needs!

- And So - Let's Head Back To Exodus 16:

- To See What Paul Has In Mind:

- Read Exodus 16:1-36 - All Throughout This Chapter:

- We See God's Grace In Providing & Supplying The Needs:

- Of His People! In Spite Of All Their Murmuring & Complaining!

- But - It Was God Himself:

- Who Promised To Provide:

- For Their Basic Needs!

- Even As He Promises To Us - In Philippians 4:19 - "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus!"

- However - The Verse That Paul Quotes In 2 Corinthians 8:

- Is Exodus 16:18:

- Which Deals With How God Wanted His Gift Of Manna To Be Distributed:

- Among His People!

- "And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating!"

- This Means That Each Morning:

- Everyone Was To Go Out:

- And "Gather" The Manna That Was On The Ground!

- So - There Was To Be Some Effort & Some Work Involved In Order For Them To Eat!

- This Principle Is Also Found:

- In The New Testament - 2 Thessalonians 3:10 - "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat!"

- But Even Though Everyone Who Was Able:
  - Was Supposed To Go Out & Gather The Manna:
    - There Were Some:
      - Who Gathered Much!
    - And There Were Others:
      - Who Gathered Little!
  - There Were Some:
    - Who Were Physically Able & Ambitious To Gather Quite A Bit More Manna Than The Others!
  - But There Were Others:
    - Who - For Whatever Reason - Weren't Able To Gather All That Much!
      - Perhaps They Were Elderly Or Disabled! Perhaps They Were Young Children & Thought It Was Just A Game! Perhaps Someone Dropped Their Pail Of Manna & It Spilled All Over The Ground!
- But When It Came Time To Divide The Manna:
  - According To Exodus 16:18 - They Measured It Out With An Omer:
    - And Every Person Received What They Needed To Sustain Them For That Day!
      - It Was Their "Daily Bread!"
- And The Apostle Paul Uses This Event:
  - In The History Of God's People:
    - To Show That ***God Uses His People:***
      - ***To Supply The Needs Of His People!***
        - Back In 8:15 - "As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack!"
  - We Must Never Forget That:
    - ***Your Money Is Our Manna!***
      - This Means That - Anything & Everything You Have - You Have Been Given:
        - By God!
          - And What You Have Been Given Is For:
- The Provision Of God!
  - As We Sing The Hymn - "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" - We Are Reminded:
    - "All I Have Needed Thy Hand Hath Provided!"
      - God Continues To Keep His Promise:
        - To Provide For You:
          - If You Are His Child!
  - But Then - If You Have Been Able To:
    - "Gather Much" In Your Life:
      - And Have More Than You Need:
        - God Has Given That Also For:
- The People Of God!
  - As Christians - We Are To Be:
    - Generous & Charitable People!
      - But The Priority Of Our Giving:
        - Is The People Of God!
          - This Is Paul's Focus In These Chapters!
  - But We Also See This In:
    - Galatians 6:10 - "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith!"
      - ***God Uses His People:***
        - ***To Provide For The Needs Of His People!***
          - The Basic, Daily Necessities Of Life!
- And This Is The Second Goal For Our Giving:
  - To Be Used By The Lord:
    - To Supply The Needs Of Our Fellow Christians!
      - Not Just In Our Own Church:
        - But All Throughout The World!
          - But Then We Come To:

\* A Third Goal For Our Giving - In 8:16-17:

3. **To Serve The Needs Of Christians!**

- "But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you. / For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you!"

- Here - Paul Reintroduces Titus:

- As The One Who Will Help Them:

- Finish Their Part Of The Collection:

- For The Poor Saints In Jerusalem!

- And It Shows To Us:

- Another Way That We Should Look:

- At Our Giving!

- **Giving Is Serving!**

- Giving Is Another Way For You To Serve:

- The Lord & His People!

- Perhaps Titus Didn't Have Much Himself:

- To Give To This Collection:

- But What He **Had** He **Gave!**

- And What Did He Have?

- A Heart For Service!

- According To 8:16 - Titus Had:

- "The Same Earnest Care" In His Heart For The Corinthian Church!

- This Means That He Had A Great Love For & Interest In The Welfare Of That Church!

- Even As Paul Had! And Titus Felt Like He Could Be A Help To Them &

Encourage Them In Their Growth!

- But Where Does Such A Heart For Service Come From?

- As Paul Says - At The Beginning:

- "But Thanks Be To God, Which Put The Same Earnest Care Into The Heart Of Titus For You!"

- This Heart Of Service Came From God!

- God Was The Source!

- And God Remains The Source:

- Of Anything Good In Your Heart & Life!

- Your Desire To Serve!

- Your Desire To Give!

- Your Desire To Worship!

- Anything Good In Your Life:

- Is Evidence Of God At Work In Your Heart!

- Even As We Are Told In Philippians 2:13 - "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure!"

- When Titus Wanted To Go Serve The Corinthian Church:

- It Proved That God Was In It!

- But Even More - We See:

- A Harmony In Service!

- In 8:17 - Paul Says:

- "For Indeed He Accepted The Exhortation!"

- In Other Words - Paul **Wanted** Titus:

- To Go Back To Corinth With This Letter In His Hand & Help Them Get Back To Growing & Giving Again!

- But Paul's Desire Became Titus' Delight!

- To Go & To Serve!

- And Titus Expressed His **Willingness** To Go!

- By God's Moving In Both Of Their Hearts, They Were United & In Harmony For This Opportunity!

- Is There This Kind Of Harmony In Our Service:

- For The Lord?

- No Matter What The Opportunity Is?

- But There Was Something Even More Going On In Titus' Heart!

- For Him - It Was:

- An Honor To Serve!
  - Titus Would Have Gone Back To Corinth:
    - Simply Because Paul Asked Him!
    - But As Paul Tells Us In The Rest Of The Verse:
      - Titus Wasn't Just **Willing** To Serve - He **Wanted** To Serve!
      - And There Is A Difference!
  - To Be **Willing** To Serve:
    - Means That You Are More Reactive:
      - And Will Wait Until You Are Asked!
  - But To Truly **Want** To Serve:
    - Means That You Are Proactive:
      - And Are Ready To Move Ahead:
        - In Service To The Lord!
  - This Is How Paul Describes Titus:
    - 8:17 - "For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you!"
  - Titus Wasn't Just Willing To Serve!
    - He Wanted To Serve!
      - He Probably Didn't Want Anyone Else To Take His Place!
  - Now - Imagine That!
    - The Last Time He Was In Corinth:
      - He Had To Deliver Paul's Sorrowful Letter!
        - He Did Not Know About The Reception Of His Visit!
        - He Did Not Know About The Results Of His Visit!
        - He Could Only Go - Relying On The Lord & His Gracious Work In Them!
  - But There Was One Thing He Did Know!
    - That God Himself Put This Desire:
      - Into His Heart!
  - May The Lord Give This Kind Of Heart:
    - To All Of Us At Grace Baptist Church!
      - A Heart To Give & To Serve:
        - With A Passionate & A Persistent Heart!

### Conclusion:

1. Because This Is The Kind Of Giving:
  - That God Is After:
    - In Our Church!
      - Giving Of Our-Selves:
        - As Well As Our Substance!
2. Is This How You See Your Giving Today?
  - Giving Is Sharing!
    - It Is An Opportunity:
      - To Show Your Love & Unity:
        - With Other Churches & Other Christians:
          - No Matter Where They Live In This World!
        - And There **Are** Christians Today That Are In Desperate Physical Need!
          - Perhaps We Need To Find Some Ways That We Can Share With Them:
            - As A Church - In The Same Spirit That We Find Here In 2 Corinthians!
    - Christian Giving Is Sharing:
      - In The Needs Of God's People!
        - But Also:
  - Giving Is Supplying!
    - It Is An Opportunity:
      - To Be Used By God:
        - To Meet The Daily, Physical Needs:
          - Of God's People!
    - It Is One Of The Primary Ways God Uses:
      - To Keep His Promise To Us - To:

- “Supply All Our Needs!”
  - How Has Good Been Using You Lately?
  - Christian Giving Is Supplying:
    - For The Needs Of God’s People!
  - Giving Is Serving!
    - It Is An Opportunity:
      - To Offer All That You Are:
      - And All That You Have:
        - To The Lord For His Service!
3. Are These Your Goals For Giving?

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