



Grace-Driven, God-Glorifying, and Love-Motivated

2 Corinthians 8:9-15
May 15, 2022

The Big Idea: The clear teaching of Paul about Christians' pattern of giving in the Church is that it should be grace-driven, God-glorifying, and love-motivated. Giving should come from our desire to acknowledge God's **lordship** over all we have and will often be aimed at the **special needs** of people experiencing a crisis.

2 Corinthians 8:16–9:5 (ESV)

8 ¹⁶ But thanks be to **God, who put into the heart** of Titus **the same earnest care I have for you**. ¹⁷ For **he** not only **accepted our appeal**, but being himself **very earnest** he is going to you of his own accord. ¹⁸ With him we are sending **the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel**. ¹⁹ And not only that, but he has been **appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace** that is being ministered by us, **for the glory of the Lord himself** and **to show our good will**. ²⁰ We take this course **so that no one should blame us** about this generous gift that is being administered by us, ²¹ **for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man**. ²² And with them we are sending our **brother whom we have often tested and found earnest** in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you. ²³ As for Titus, **he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit**. And as for our brothers, **they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ**. ²⁴ So **give proof** before the churches of your **love and of our boasting** about you to these men.

9 Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, ² for **I know your readiness**, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And **your zeal** has stirred up most of them. ³ But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, **so that you may be ready**, as I said you would be. ⁴ Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. ⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and **arrange in advance for the gift you have promised**, so that it may be ready as a **willing gift**, not as an **exaction**.



A Quick Overview of What the Bible Says About Money

1. All things, including our money, **belong** to the Lord. [1 Chronicles 29:11; Colossians 1:16]
2. Our capacity to **make** money is from the Lord [Deuteronomy 8:17-18]
3. Our use of money is an accurate barometer of what **matters** to us – even of what we love and worship. [Matthew 6:19-21]
4. Generous giving begins with first giving yourself fully to the **Lord**. [v. 5]
5. Generous giving is a **choice** we must make and we can get better and better at it. [v. 7]
6. Our model for living a generous life is **Christ**. [v. 9]
7. God is the one who **change** a **heart** and make us caring and loving toward others [8:16]
8. When it Comes to the Church We Must Handle Money With **Integrity**. [8:16-24]
 - Let it be overseen by people who are **trustworthy**.
 - Make sure more than **one** person is involved in handling the money.
 - We must be **honorable** in how we give, receive, and spend money.
 - The **Elders** and leadership of the church must assure that money is used in ways that glorify the Lord and bless people. From the earliest days of the church (Acts 4), when money was brought in – especially substantial gifts – it was “placed at the Apostle’s feet”, which means that the Apostles oversaw the use of the money as a group.
9. The giving of a Christian should be focused through their **church**, be systematic, proportionate, and something we all do. [1 Corinthians 16:2]