

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

All: O Lord my God, You are very great!

Leader: May the glory of the Lord endure forever;

All: may the Lord rejoice in His works!

Musical Reflection

Confession

Heavenly Father, we come before Your throne of grace to confess our sin. We have been selfish instead of generous; we have been proud instead of humble; we have held grudges instead of forgiving; we have proven over and over again that we cannot be good enough on our own.

Declaration of Pardon

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

All: Hallelujah

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

Text: 2 Corinthians 8-9

Title: The Glory of Giving

Corporate Response: Build Your Kingdom

Benediction

Sermon Text, Notes, and Quotes:

Giving Gives God Glory

- How They Gave
 - Graciously
 - Sacrificially
 - Generously
 - Desperately
 - Personally
- How We Give
 - Excellently
 - Proportionally
 - Cooperatively
 - Faithfully
 - Joyously
- How God Gives
 - Sufficiently
 - Purposefully
- What God Gets
 - Glory

Christian giving is estimated in terms not of quantity, but of sacrifice.

- Philip Hughes

After all, if you have given yourself away to the Lord and to your brothers and sisters, it shouldn't be too much to give your wealth.

- John Frame

If you give what you were given to give, more will be given to you.

- Miroslav Volf

Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem.

- 1 Corinthians 16:1–3

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

- 2 Corinthians 8:1–15

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity

of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

- 2 Corinthians 9:6–15

Study Questions:

Warming Up:

- 1) If you were a hoarder, what would you hoard?
- 2) What is the most generous thing someone has ever done for you?
- 3) If you received an unexpected check in the mail, how would you first think to use it?

Digging In:

- 1) How would you summarize the spirit of generosity in the Macedonian churches?
 - a) HINT: Look in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- 2) How would you summarize Paul's exhortations to give?
 - a) HINT: Look in 2 Corinthians 8:11-15 and 9:6-7
- 3) How would you summarize what God receives when we give?
 - a) HINT: Look in 2 Corinthians 9:8-15

Applying:

- 1) Describe your general reaction to this series on giving?
 - a) What misconceptions about money and the church did you have before?
 - i) Misconceptions about money and following Jesus?
 - b) Did anything about this series surprise you?
 - c) Do you have any lingering questions, or things about which you are uncertain?
- 2) What are your financial plans for yourself in the next five years?
 - a) Has this series changed those plans?
- 3) What are your financial hopes for Park Road in the next five years?
 - a) Has this series changed those hopes?