

The Givers Who Please God



2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-15 TEXT, EXPOSITION AND PRACTICAL HELPS

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THE MINISTRY AND ITS FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS, [2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15](#)

A. The Givers Who Please God, [2 Corinthians 9:1-7](#)

[\(2 Corinthians 9:1-7\)](#) **Introduction:** giving pleases God, for giving is of the very nature of God. God is the very **One** who has given the *supreme gift*—the Lord Jesus Christ. The most loved passage of Scripture clearly proclaims the glorious truth.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" ([John 3:16](#)).

To repeat the truth, giving pleases God. However, not every giver pleases God. This is clearly seen in this passage. **Who, then, are the givers who please God?**

1. **They have a readiness, an eagerness to give (v.1-2).**
2. **They are not caught unprepared to give (v.3-5).**
3. **They give much and reap much: reap what they sow (v.6).**
4. **They give deliberately, not grudgingly, not from compulsion (v.7).**

1. [\(2 Corinthians 9:1-2\)](#) **Stewardship— Giving: givers who please God have a readiness, an eagerness to give.**

This is seen in **four clear statements** made by Paul.

1. He expected the Corinthians to give. Why? Because some dear "saints" of God needed help. The term "saints" (*hagious*) means "those who are set apart and devoted to God." It is a term referring to genuine believers. **The point is striking.** Some fellow believers were in desperate need. The churches in Judea were poor and desperately needed help; therefore the Corinthians *were expected* to help them. In fact, the expectation was so strong there was little need to even say anything about it.

Thought 1. Christian believers should be so devoted to God that people expect and know that they will give to meet the needs of the world. **In fact**, as long as a need exists, believers should be giving *all they are and have* to meet that need.

"Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth" ([Luke 12:33](#)).

"I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive" ([Acts 20:35](#)).

2. Paul knew the forwardness, the readiness of their minds to give. How often can this be said of believers? Of a church? Are we honestly forward, reaching out, searching for needs to meet? Can others actually *know* that our minds are ready, set, and focused to give?

3. Paul boasted in the Corinthians, in their readiness to give. It had happened a year earlier. The spirit of the Corinthians had been so committed to ministry, to meeting the needs of their fellow believers, that they had immediately underwritten the mission project to help the churches of Judea. But soon afterward some problems had arisen, and the church backed off its commitment. Before the problem, Paul had boasted in the zeal of the Corinthians, how quickly they had committed themselves to the mission project.

Thought 1. The commitment to missions is always commendable and is a great testimony to be shared with others. Every church needs such commitment, but it needs to follow through on its commitment. It needs to live day by day for Christ, lay aside differences and get rid of divisiveness and sin in its midst, and get to the task at hand: ministering to the needs of those who are in desperate straits.

4. The zeal and commitment of the Corinthians stirred "many" to help in the mission project.

Thought 1. This is the spirit and testimony needed by the Lord's churches: a zeal for missions *so strong* that it stirs "many" to make the same commitment.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" ([Mark 16:15](#)).

"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" ([John 4:34-35](#)).

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" ([John 9:4](#)).

"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" ([John 20:21](#)).

"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" ([Acts 4:20](#)).

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him" ([Acts 10:38](#)).

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" ([Eccles. 9:10](#)).

2. (2 Corinthians 9:3-5) Stewardship— Giving: givers who please God are not caught unprepared to give.

As Paul traveled from place to place, he was always training young disciples in the ministry, and these disciples often traveled with him. In addition to these, Paul was sometimes escorted to the next city by men from the place where he had just completed his ministry. This was soon to be the case: some men from Macedonia were going to escort him to Corinth. This fact is the background for what Paul now says.

1. Being unprepared to give causes shame. Paul says that he was sending Titus and the two other men to reactivate the mission project among the Corinthians. He was doing this lest he be ashamed and embarrassed when he and the other Macedonians arrived. He had boasted in the Corinthians a year earlier, using their commitment to missions as a testimony to stir the Macedonians to underwrite the same project. If he and their representatives arrived and the Corinthians had slipped back and failed to follow through, the situation would be a reflection upon Christ, Paul, and the Corinthian church.

Thought 1. A Christian who is unprepared to give brings shame to the very name of Christian. The very purpose for Christ coming to earth was to give—to give sacrificially and to give all. He gave His very life to meet the needs of desperate humanity. Therefore, it is a shame, an embarrassment to the name of Christ for a professing Christian not to give; for Christ existed to give. **The very name of Christ and of Christian means to give and to give sacrificially—to give all.**

2. Being prepared shows love, not covetousness. Paul says that he was sending the men ahead of him so that the church could reactivate the mission project and offering. They needed to have the collection ready when he arrived. Note why Paul felt this was necessary: so that the Corinthians would demonstrate love and generosity, not covetousness. If the mission project was still being delayed when he and the Macedonians arrived, the church would seem to be covetous and worldly. **They would be failing in their very purpose for being on earth: to minister to those in need.**

Thought 1. Honest believers and churches have to confess to covetousness. Few really give all they *are and have* to meet the desperate plight of the human race, a human race of men and women, boys and girls dying without Christ; and so many are dying prematurely from hunger, cold, disease, loneliness, emptiness, worthlessness, sin, and evil.

How terrible covetousness is! Living extravagantly, spending beyond our needs, banking, hoarding, building up estates, constructing larger and larger homes, buying more and more—all to the deprivation and destruction of human life and to the doom of human souls. Covetousness has no place in the Christian's heart or in the church, much less upon earth. Its results are too devastating. Believers must be prepared to give, demonstrating the very sacrificial love of Christ Himself who gave all to meet the needs of the desperate.

"And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" ([Luke 12:15](#)).

"Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me" ([Luke 18:22](#)).

"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry" ([Col. 3:5](#)).

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" ([1 Tim. 6:17-19](#)).

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" ([Hebrews 13:5](#)).

"But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" ([Hebrews 13:16](#)).

"Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away" ([Matthew 5:42](#)).

"I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive" ([Acts 20:35](#)).

"Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality" ([Romans 12:13](#)).

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" ([Galatians 6:10](#)).

"Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" ([Ephes. 4:28](#)).

3. (2 Corinthians 9:6) Stewardship— Giving— Reaping— Reward: givers who please God give much and reap much.

In fact, when it comes to reaping, they reap exactly what they sow. Note that the picture is that of sowing seed: when a man plants the seed, the same is returned to him; in fact, much more is returned to him—a full harvest. This is one of the great principles of Scripture, but it must be carefully noted: it is not the man who *pretends to sacrificially give* who shall be greatly blessed by God. It shall be the man who *actually does sacrifice* all he is and has. This man will never go lacking; God will abundantly provide for him.

"Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" ([Proverbs 3:9-10](#)).

"There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself" ([Proverbs 11:24-25](#)).

"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again" ([Proverbs 19:17](#)).

"He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor" ([Proverbs 22:9](#)).

"He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse" ([Proverbs 28:27](#)).

"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days" ([Eccles. 11:1](#)).

"And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity and thy darkness be as the noonday" ([Isaiah 58:10](#)).

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" ([Malachi 3:10](#)).

"He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me" ([Matthew 10:41](#)).

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" ([Luke 6:38](#)).

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" ([Galatians 6:7](#)).

"But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity" ([Phil. 4:10](#)).

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" ([Phil. 4:19](#)).

4. ([2 Corinthians 9:7](#)) Stewardship— Giving: the giver who pleases God gives deliberately, not grudgingly and not from compulsion.

It is absolutely crucial to note one thing: God does not accept the gift of a person who does not want to give.

God expects three things of the person who gives.

1. The giver must give as he *purposes* in his heart. This does not mean that people are not to be encouraged to give nor that they cannot be stirred to give.

It means that a person is.....

- a. to think about the need.
- b. to think about what he should *give sacrificially*.
- c. to make a *deliberate decision* about what he should sacrifice in order to give what he should.
- d. to give exactly what he should give.

2. The giver must not give grudgingly: not out of sorrow, not with reluctance or regret. If the giver is going to be mulling over his gift and regretting that he had given it, his gift is unacceptable to God.

The person needs to straighten his heart out with God, for.....

- a. he is failing to see the desperate needs of the world.
- b. he is failing to see what Jesus Christ has done for him.

3. The giver must not give out of necessity.

A person's gift is not acceptable to God when he.....

- a. is forced to give.
- b. gives because he fears what others will think.
- c. gives just to please others.
- d. gives to keep others from pestering him.
- e. gives out of a desire for personal honor and recognition.

4. The giver must give cheerfully if he wishes God to accept his gift. The word "**cheerful**" (*hilaron*) means "joyful." The giver is pleased and delighted to give to meet the needs of God's people and of the world. Note that God *loves* the cheerful giver, for the cheerful giver is just like His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ willingly and cheerfully gave all He was and had to meet the needs of the world.

"But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you" ([Luke 11:41](#)).

"And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing" ([1 Cor. 13:3](#)).

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" ([1 Cor. 16:2](#)).

"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" ([2 Cor. 8:12](#)).

"Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" ([Ephes. 4:28](#)).

THE MINISTRY AND ITS FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15

B. The Motives for Giving Generously and Sacrificially, 2 Corinthians 9:8-15

(2 Corinthians 9:8-15) **Introduction:** there are many reasons why believers should give to meet the desperate needs of the world. This passage covers the motives for giving generously and sacrificially.

1. **Motive 1: to be enriched more and more by God (v.8-11).**
2. **Motive 2: to meet needs and bring praise to God (v.12).**
3. **Motive 3: to prove one's loyalty to Christ (v.13).**
4. **Motive 4: to enhance prayer, love, and fellowship (v.14).**
5. **Motive 5: to praise God for His unspeakable gift (v.15).**

1. (2 Corinthians 9:8-11) **Stewardship— Giving: the first motive for giving is to be enriched more and more by God.**

The Christian is called upon to give sacrificially; in fact, he is to give all he is and has to meet the needs of a desperate world. This seems very risky and unwise to many, but it is the clear teaching of Scripture. How could God expect us to give sacrificially, to give all beyond what we need for our own families? The answer is simple, yet pointed.

1. *God is able* to make all grace abound and overflow toward us. God is able to *pay us back* what we give. In fact note exactly what God says and note the fullness of God's gifts in the words "all" and "always":

"God is able to make *all* grace abound toward you; that ye, *always* having *all* sufficiency in *all* things...." (2 Cor. 9:8).

In Scripture the word "**grace**" refers to the favor and blessings of God, both spiritual and material. In this particular passage the subject is primarily material blessings, although spiritual blessings are certainly included in the phrases "**all grace**" and "**all things**." Therefore, what God says is a great encouragement to the sacrificial giver. God will more than return what the giver gives.

God will return.....

- a. all grace
 - b. all sufficiency
 - c. all things
2. God expects the believer to give sacrificially so that the believer may abound to every *good work*. That is, God gives the believer more and more so that he can give more and more.

This is the point of the next verse: God gives to the believer so that.....

- a. the believer can scatter God's blessings all abroad.
- b. the believer can give to the poor.
- c. the believer's righteousness (just deeds, goodness, kindness, and gifts) may endure forever. Just think: whatever gifts the believer gives endure forever.

Note something else as well: note what God does for the sacrificial giver. The oldest and best Greek texts make this a declaration of fact and not a prayer.

God ministers seed to the sower; therefore.....

- a. God will minister and give bread to the sacrificial giver.
- b. God will multiply the gift given by the sacrificial giver.
- c. God will increase the fruits of the believer's just and good deeds or righteousness.
- d. God will enrich everything in all ways so that the believer can continue to give liberally and bountifully.

Thought 1. This is a striking truth: the believer receives so that he can give. This means that no believer has an excuse for hoarding and *keeping back* more than he needs. God did not give it to him to *keep back*. God gave it to the believer to meet the desperate needs of the world. This is an earth-shaking truth, for it means that all the believer has *is to be given*. It is not to be kept. He is only a channel through which God sends His blessings to the world. To keep back more than what one needs is stealing—not only stealing from the desperate of the world, but stealing from God.

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" ([John 10:10](#)).

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" ([2 Cor. 9:8](#)).

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" ([Ephes. 3:20](#)).

Thought 2. Giving sacrificially depends upon one thing: believing, truly believing, that God is able to take care of us—that God will provide the necessities of life and bless abundantly.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" ([Matthew 6:33](#)).

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" ([Phil. 4:19](#)).

"But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" ([Phil. 4:10-13](#)).

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" ([1 Peter 5:7](#)).

[2. \(2 Corinthians 9:12\) Stewardship— Giving: the second motive for giving is to meet the needs of the world and to bring praise to God.](#)

1. When there are so many needs in the world, every single person who has anything beyond the necessities of life will be held accountable—severely accountable. Since there is a God in heaven who oversees all, it could be no other way.

How could God look down upon a child who is dying, and see a person standing off to the side with more than enough to save the child, and just bypass it? Man—be he Christian or unbeliever—is a fool to think God will overlook such selfishness and extravagance, indulgence and hoarding.

God could not be God if He did not judge such irresponsible and corrupt behavior with the severest punishment. Just think of the desperate needs:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. starvation | e. loneliness |
| b. disease | f. homelessness |
| c. ignorance | g. inadequate clothing |
| d. sin | h. emptiness |

And the most terrible fate of all: dying without ever knowing the love and salvation of God in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the greatest motives for giving is to meet the desperate needs of the world.

"Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me" ([Matthew 19:21](#)).

"But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you" ([Luke 11:41](#)).

"Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth" ([Luke 12:33](#)).

"Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me" ([Luke 18:22](#)).

"And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold" ([Luke 19:8](#)).

2. There is another motive that is just as important (this fact could be stated as a result if preferred: the praise of God.

When needs are truly met.....

- a. the recipient gives thanks and praises God.
- b. the witnesses or observers give thanks and praise God.
- c. the giver gives thanks and praises God.

Note that "**many thanksgivings**" are offered up to God.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" ([Matthew 5:16](#)).

"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" ([John 15:8](#)).

"When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee" ([Deut. 8:10](#)).

"And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his words with rejoicing" ([Psalm 107:22](#)).

3. (2 Corinthians 9:13) Stewardship— Giving: the third motive for giving is to prove one's loyalty to the gospel of Christ.

The gospel is the proclamation of the greatest love and gift ever made known—that of God's love and of God's very own Son. Any person who claims to follow the gospel of God's love must be loyal in carrying the gospel of love forth. He must live a sacrificial life just as Jesus did a life that gives all it is and has to meet the needs of the desperate.

Note that the mission project undertaken by the Corinthians is called an "**experiment**" or a test. Every ministry undertaken is a test of the believer's loyalty to the gospel. Believers prove their loyalty to Christ by ministering the gospel and meeting the needs of people. In fact, how else can we prove that we belong to the gospel? The answer is obvious: there is no other way. If we are loyal to Christ and His gospel, then we give and give and keep on giving to share the gospel and to meet the needs of the world.

Note something else as well. The glory of God which is stirred by our giving is mentioned again—a third time ([2 Cor. 9:11, 12, 13](#)). The fact that it is mentioned *three times* shows how important a reason it is. We are to give because it stirs people to glorify God.

Thought 1. Loyalty to Christ and His gospel includes stewardship, the giving of tithes and offerings. In fact, it involves giving all we are and have, for Christ will not accept just part of a person. A person either surrenders himself totally to Christ or he does not truly surrender himself.

"Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me" ([Matthew 19:21](#)).

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God" ([Matthew 19:23-24](#)).

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" ([1 Cor. 16:2](#)).

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" ([Galatians 6:10](#)).

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" ([1 Tim. 6:17-19](#)).

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee" ([Deut. 16:17](#)).

"Honor the LORD with thy substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase" ([Proverbs 3:9](#)).

4. (2 Corinthians 9:14) Stewardship— Giving: the fourth motive for giving is to enhance prayer, love, and fellowship.

Very simply, when believers give to people in their desperate needs, the people give thanks for them and their fellowship in the Lord. Giving stirs great prayer, love, and fellowship among God's people. This is a fact that is often overlooked, yet it is so important that it alone merits sacrificial giving. **What greater results could we ask than for prayer, love, and fellowship among God's people?**

"Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers" ([Ephes. 1:15-16](#)).

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy" ([Phil. 1:3-4](#)).

"We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints" ([Col. 1:3-4](#)).

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father" ([1 Thes. 1:2-3](#)).

5. ([2 Corinthians 9:15](#)) Stewardship— Giving: the fifth motive for giving is to praise God for His unspeakable gift.

The greatest gift ever given was God's gift to the world: the gift of His own Son. No greater gift could ever be given. God has given the supreme gift (see note below [Deeper Study # 1—2 Cor. 8:9](#) for more discussion).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" ([John 3:16](#)).

"Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water" ([John 4:10](#)).

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" ([Romans 6:23](#)).

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" ([Romans 8:32](#)).

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" ([2 Cor. 9:15](#)).

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" ([Ephes. 2:8-9](#)).

Deeper Study # 1

(2 Corinthians 8:9) Stewardship— Giving— Jesus Christ, Humiliation;

Condescension: the challenge is to know the example of the Lord Jesus Christ. Above all others, Jesus Christ demonstrates not only that we are to give, but how we are to give.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ was rich. He was the Son of God, possessing the very nature and being and fullness of God ([John 1:1-3](#); [Phil. 2:6](#)).

- a. He dwelt in the glory and majesty, dominion and power of the Godhead ([Jude 24-25](#)).
 - b. He dwelt in light which no man can approach, in all the splendor and brilliance of the Godhead ([1 Tim. 6:16](#)).
 - c. He possessed every good and perfect thing that can be possessed ([James 1:17](#)).
 - d. He had all the worship and adoration of heavenly beings ([Rev. 4:6f](#); [Rev. 5:11](#)).
2. The Lord Jesus Christ became poor. This refers to the incarnation of Jesus Christ, that is, to His condescension or humiliation. It refers to the great gulf He had to span in coming to earth. The Lord Jesus Christ, who was King of kings and Lord of lords, who was God of very God, left all the glory and worship of heaven to become a man.

He who was.....

- a. God became an humble man.
- b. the Lord took on flesh and blood.
- c. the Holy God took the place of the lowest.
- d. the Sovereign Lord became the subject.
- e. the Beloved became the rejected.
- f. the Perfect One became the Sacrifice for sin.
- g. the Life became the Substitute for death.

As Scripture declares so aptly, "**He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor.**" Because He became poor, we can become rich. We can receive the adoption of sons, actually become sons and daughters of God and live with Him forever and ever in the new heavens and earth ([2 Cor. 6:17-18](#)).

The point is this: since Christ willingly sacrificed so much to help us, we ought to sacrifice to help those in need. Just as Christ gave everything for us when we were in desperate need, so we are to give everything to meet the needs of those who are desperately lost in this world.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" ([Phil. 2:5-8](#)).

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" ([Hebrews 2:14-15](#)).

"I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive" ([Acts 20:35](#)).