

BIBLICAL ECONOMICS

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

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

2 Corinthians 9:8-15 (NASB)

⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

⁹ as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."

¹⁰ Now 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;

¹¹ you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

¹² For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

¹³ Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,

¹⁴ while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.

¹⁵ Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

(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).**

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.

2 Corinthians 9:12 (NASB)

¹² "For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings 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:

- starvation
- disease
- ignorance
- sin
- loneliness
- homelessness
- inadequate clothing
- 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.

Matthew 19:21 (NASB)

²¹ “Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be **complete** [**teleios**= , perfect,full age, mature, growth, mental and moral character], go *and* sell your possessions and give to *the* poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

Luke 11:41 (NASB)

⁴¹ “But give that which is within as **charity** [**eleēmosynē**= *beneficence as exercised towards the poor, compassionateness*], and then all things are clean for you.”

Luke 12:33 (NASB)

³³ “Sell your possessions and give to **charity** [**eleēmosynē**= *beneficence as exercised towards the poor, compassionateness*]; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys.”

Luke 18:22 (NASB)

²² “When Jesus heard *this*, He said to him, “One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and **distribute** [**ptōchos**= *straitened circumstances, not having enough money to pay for necessities*] it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

Luke 19:8 (NASB)

⁸ “Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.”

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...

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

Note that “**many thanksgivings**” are offered up to God.

Matthew 5:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

John 15:8 (NASB)

⁸“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

Deuteronomy 8:10 (NASB)

¹⁰“When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.”

Psalm 107:22 (NASB)

²²“Let them also offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, And tell of His works with joyful singing.”

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

2 Corinthians 9:13 (NASB)

¹³“Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all.”

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 Corinthians 9:11-13). 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.

2 Corinthians 9:11-13 (NASB)

¹¹“You will be enriched in everything for all **liberality** [**haplotēs=generosity**], which through us is producing thanksgiving to

God.

For the ministry of this service is not only fully **supplying** [Prosanaplēroō=furnish fully] the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

¹³ Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the **liberality** [haplotēs=generosity] of your **contribution** [koinōnia=participation and benefaction] to them and to all.”

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.

Matthew 19:21 (NASB)

²¹ “Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be **complete** [teleios= , perfect,full age, mature, growth, mental and moral character], go *and* sell your possessions and give to *the* poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

Matthew 19:23-24 (NASB)

²³ “And Jesus said to His disciples, “Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.”

²⁴ “Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NASB)

² “On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.”

Galatians 6:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ “So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NASB)

¹⁷ “Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

¹⁸ *Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,

¹⁹ storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”

Deuteronomy 16:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ “Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.”

Proverbs 3:9 (NASB)

⁹ “**Honor** [kābēd=numerous, richly, to be weighty] the LORD from your **wealth** [hôn=substance , sufficiency] And from the first of all your produce.”

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

2 Corinthians 9:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“While they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.”

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?**

Ephesians 1:15-16 (NASB)

¹⁵“For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and your love for all the saints,

¹⁶do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers.”

Philippians 1:3-4 (NASB)

³“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

⁴always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all.”

Colossians 1:3-4 (NASB)

³“We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints.”

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (NASB)

²“We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention *of you* in our prayers;

³constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father.”

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

2 Corinthians 9:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“Thanks be to God for His indescribable 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.

John 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that He **gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 4:10 (NASB)

¹⁰“Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

Romans 6:23 (NASB)

²³ “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:32 (NASB)

³² “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?”

2 Corinthians 9:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”