



A GRACIOUS STEWARD

A HEART OF GRACE

Pastor Paul Chappell • Sunday Morning • February 19, 2017

“Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. 3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; 4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. 6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. 7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. 8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. 9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. 10 And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago. 11 Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. 12 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. 13 For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: 14 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:”
(2 Corinthians 8:1-14)

INTRODUCTION

Quote: “Giving is not a debt you owe, it is a seed you sow.”

1. THE _____ OF GRACE

A. Grace Is _____ by the Spirit

Definition: *grace*—a disposition created by the Holy Spirit

Definition: *bestowed*—to give of one's own accord, to supply, furnish

“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 Corinthians 9:8)

B. Grace Is _____ by God's People

THEY EXPERIENCED AFFLICTION

Definition: *trial*—proving, a test to approve

Definition: *affliction*—pressing together, pressure, tribulation

Quote: “Paul is using the Macedonians as an example. They were in a depression. These people who gave that love offering so long ago, in the Bible, were living lives of destitution. Their standard of living had changed.”—**Adrian Rogers**

“So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:” (2 Thessalonians 1:4)

Quote: “Trials can either make you bitter or better.”

THEIR GIVING WAS ABUNDANT

“I have shewed 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)

Definition: *liberality*—an open heart shown by generosity

Quote: “Some givers are motivated by guilt, some are motivated by greed, but spiritual givers are motivated by grace.”

“For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.” (Mark 12:44)

2. THE _____ OF GRACE

A. They Gave _____

THEY WERE PERSUADED

Definition: *power*—abilities, the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth and resources arising from numbers

Quote: “Christian giving does not depend on material circumstances so much as spiritual convictions.”—**Warren Wiersbe**

THEY WERE PASSIONATE

Definition: *intreaty*—supplication, encouragement, persuasion

Quote: “A miserly man is a miserable man.”—**Adrian Rogers**

THEY WERE PARTNERS

B. They Gave _____

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” (Romans 12:1)

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.” (Mark 12:30)

Quote: “Money is so intimately related to the possessor, that we cannot give money without giving ourselves.”

C. They Gave _____

Definition: *begun*—to commence, to begin beforehand

Definition: *finish*—to bring to an end, accomplish, perfect, complete

Quote: “Commitments are sustained through strong, inward motives.”

3. THE _____ OF GRACE

A. A _____ Practice

AN OUTPOURING OF GRACE

Quote: “Giving should be a grace, not a disgrace.”

Quote: “Spiritual giving is biblical giving. If Christians do not bring tithes and offerings to the local church, then their hearts are not in the ministry of the local church.”—**Warren Wiersbe**

BY A DEMONSTRATION OF LOVE

“Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.” (2 Corinthians 8:24)

B. A _____ Practice

“For the love of Christ constraineth us because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.” (2 Corinthians 5:14–15)

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.” (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Quote: “Stewardship begins with love, not giving.”

Quote: “Christian givers are motivated by the cross.”

CONCLUSION



Lancaster Baptist Church • 4020 E. Lancaster Blvd. • Lancaster, CA 93535
661.946.4663 • lancasterbaptist.org • Paul Chappell, Pastor