



## Sermon Notes

February 24, 2008  
Tim Strickland

### Proverbs 3:9-10

<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth  
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;  
<sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty,  
and your vats will be bursting with wine.

**2 Corinthians 8:1-7** <sup>1</sup>We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, <sup>4</sup>begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—<sup>5</sup>and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. <sup>6</sup>Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. <sup>7</sup>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.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8** <sup>6</sup>The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>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.

### Introduction

Today: "Giving to God"

- Message #6 in "Where Your Treasure Is", a series about God, money & you

Where Your Treasure Is... #6  
**Giving to God**  
*2 Corinthians 8-9 & other passages*

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Where Your Treasure Is... #6  
**Giving to God**  
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### 1. What is "Giving to God" all about?

- Giving to God is an act of worship
  - 2 Corinthians 8:5
- Giving to God is an act of grace
  - 2 Corinthians. 8:7, 9:8, 9:14
- Giving to God is an act of following Christ's example
  - 2 Corinthians 8:9, 9:15

### 2. Who is supported by giving to God?

- Giving to God supports ministers of the gospel locally
  - 1 Cor. 9:1-18, esp v14, 1 Tim. 5:17-18, Gal. 6:6
- Giving to God supports ministers of the gospel globally
  - Philippians 4:10-20, Romans 15:24-29
- Giving to God supports the poor and those in need
  - Acts 2:45, 4:34-37, 2 Corinthians 8:4, Galatians 2:10

### 3. What are some principles for giving to God?

- Give to God first
  - Proverbs 3:9-10, Matthew 6:33
- Give to God generously
  - Romans 12:8, 2 Corinthians 9:11
- Give to God joyfully & sacrificially
  - 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (esp vv1-4)
  - abundant joy + extreme poverty = wealth of generosity
- Give to God freely & cheerfully
  - 2 Corinthians 8:3, 2 Cor. 9:5-6
- Give to God systematically
  - 1 Corinthians 16:2

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**4. How should gifts to God be administered?**

- a. Gifts to God should be administered with absolute integrity
  - 2 Corinthians 8:20
- b. Gifts to God should be administered with public, open processes
  - 2 Corinthians 8:21
- c. Gifts to God should be administered by multiple, trustworthy people
  - 1 Corinthians 16:3, 2 Corinthians 8:16-19,22, 1 Tim. 3:3,8

**5. What does giving to God produce?**

- a. Giving to God produces blessing for the giver
  - Acts 20:35 *It is more blessed to give than to receive*
  - Proverbs 3:9-10
- b. Giving to God produces a greater giving ability for the giver
  - 2 Corinthians 9:10
- c. Giving to God produces prayer for the giver
  - 2 Corinthians 9:14
- d. Giving to God produces "fruit that increases to your credit"
  - Philippians 4:17
- e. Giving to God produces an increase in the spiritual harvest
  - 2 Corinthians 9:10
- f. Giving to God produces thanksgiving and praise to God
  - 2 Corinthians 9:11-15

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**Our Response**

1. Participate in the privilege of giving to God.
2. Let God's grace in your life flow out into generous giving.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8** <sup>6</sup>*The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.* <sup>7</sup>*Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* <sup>8</sup>*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency<sup>f</sup> in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

**Questions for Application**

1. How is giving to God an act of worship? How is it an act of grace?
2. Which principle(s) of giving to God most challenged you in today's message?
3. What barriers keep people from giving to God as they should?
4. Are you a generous giver to God? Or when it comes to giving, are you sitting on the sidelines? What blessings do we miss when we don't give to God?
5. Pray together for strength from the Lord to make Him the greatest treasure in your life. Pray privately to the Lord about your giving to Him. Pray that God would move people in our church to cheerful, generous giving to the Lord.

**Questions, Comments? - [inthebeginning@look.ca](mailto:inthebeginning@look.ca)**

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks,

Tim



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