

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

(2 Cor. 9:1-11)

Introduction:

1. The context of the passage read is that of the contribution being gathered by the apostle Paul for the needy saints in Judea; a good work of the 1st century church and a great example for the church of all ages.
2. God still loves a cheerful giver, and His people are still asked to give.
3. Let us consider the principles involved with our giving to the assembly and the needs that the giving is to meet.

Discussion:

I. The Principles Involved.

- A. We are the children of God (Acts 17:29; 1 Pet. 1:3-9, 13-16).
 1. We ought to be like God having been created in His image.
 - a. What is God like? He is a giver (our existence and our world--Gen. 1:26; our salvation and our hope—John 3:16).
 - b. What ought we to be like? We ought to be givers (2 Cor. 8:1-9).
 2. a. What is God like? He is more concerned about others than Himself (Rom. 15:3).
 - b. What ought we to be like? The same (Rom. 15:1, 2).
- B. We live according to the spirit, not the flesh (Rom. 8:5). Generous, even sacrificial giving to the Lord and His kingdom protects us from the sin of covetousness and all of its expressions.
- C. We are the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matt. 5:13-16; John 1:4; 8:12).
 1. The world will only see Jesus if we shine forth His light (1 Cor. 11:1; John 14:9).
 2. The work of His kingdom will only be done by our doing it (Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Tim. 2:4; Gal. 6:10; et al). In many respects we are the tools of the providence of God!

II. The Needs Involved.

- A. Eph. 4:11-24 = the main purpose/work of the church is the striving together for Christ-likeness.
 1. This entails: a place to meet and all that entails; worship expedients; teachings aids; etc.
 2. This includes: trained teachers; outside teacher resources (meetings/seminars).
- B. Matt. 28:18-20 + 1 Tim. 2:4 = evangelistic outreach.
 1. Assembly outreach via mailings, website, advertisements, public events, door knocking, etc.
 2. Personal outreach.
- C. Gal. 6:10 + Titus 3:13, 14 = meeting of physical needs.
 1. Meeting the needs of those within the assembly.
 2. Meeting needs of those outside the assembly.

Conclusion:

1. Heb. 10:5 + Gen. 1:26 + Gen. 2:7 + Rom. 12:1 = What our life ought to be = a living sacrifice to God = a life given and giving to God.
2. Add to that the fact that the Bible says clearly that we will be judged by what we did with the bodies given to us (2 Cor. 5:10) and the message is clear = if you want to be with God forever in heaven then serve Him completely here with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Will you give cheerfully?
3. Invitation.