

God Loves a Cheerful Giver

1. Paul's Message to the Corinthians

• God's grace in Christ vs6-15 (2Co 8)

- empowers you to give joyfully & generously in all circumstances

- supplies & multiplies your seed for sowing & increases the harvest of your righteousness

• Give as you've decided in your hearts: for God loves a cheerful giver v7

- give in light of God's grace in Christ, as a witness to His grace
2Cor 8 & 9

- your submission in giving flows out of your confession of the gospel
v13

- your faithfulness in giving provides for the saints & further glorifies
God thru thanksgiving & unity vs10-15

2. Some Biblical Principles of Giving

• Why should we give?

To worship, witness, & be a loving-unified body

• How should we give?

By faith as godly stewards & generous partners in the gospel

• What should we give? Examples...

→ an offering according to our means or beyond our means: 2Co 8:3

→ our tithe, first-fruits or last penny: Mal 3:10ff; Dt 26:10; Mk 12:41ff

→ our possessions, time & talents:

Lk 3:11; Ac 2:42ff; 1Pe 4:10; Mt 6:19ff

• Who should we give to?

→ our families: 1Ti 5:8

→ our local churches

- pastors: 1Ti 5:17f; 1Co 9:14

- missionaries: 1Co 9:14; Php 4:10ff

- fellow believers: 2Co 8-9; Ac 2:42ff; Heb 13:3

→ the poor/our communities: Isa 58:6ff; Mt 5:44