

Theme: In the New Covenant, believers freely give finances in response to God's grace, in order to support the work and growth of the church

## I. Intro – Joke about Preacher & Money

- A. Group survive plane crash; stranded on an island
- B. Most are frantic, worried; start working to survive
- C. One rich man refuses to do anything - not worried
- D. "I am a millionaire, I tithe - my preacher will find me!"
- E. The church can have a reputation of greed for money
- F. This reputation is often well deserved!
- G. What does the NT actually teach about giving?
- H. How is this related to church planting?

## II. Paul's Tension Regarding Financial Support

- A. Paul's desire for independence (Philippians 4:11-20)
  - 1. v11 - I am not in need; I am content (but in jail!)
  - 2. v12 - content in any and every situation
  - 3. v13 - can do all things (want or plenty) in Christ
  - 4. v17 - not looking for gift - credit to your account
  - 5. Paul does not want to beg for money!
- B. Paul's thankfulness for the Philippians giving
  - 1. v10 - rejoice greatly at your concern for me
  - 2. v14 - it was good of you to share in my troubles
  - 3. v15-16 - remembering their support for years

- 4. v18 - full payment & more; amply supplied by you
- 5. Their gifts made a difference - & Paul is thankful

## III. Biblical Principles on Giving

- A. Old Testament giving - law of the tithe
  - 1. Tithe was given to priests and Levites (Num. 18:21)
  - 2. The tithe belonged to the Lord (Leviticus 27:30)
  - 3. Tithe throughout OT but commanded by the law
- B. New Testament giving - continuities
  - 1. Still give to support church workers
    - a. 1 Cor. 9:7-14 - those who preach gospel are paid
    - b. [1 Tim 5:17-18 elders, especially teachers, supported]
    - c. [vv12,15 - Paul gave up this right, but it is a right]
  - 2. Money given to workers is still given to the Lord
    - a. Phil 4:18 - Gift to Paul is offering, sacrifice to God
    - b. We give to God through the church - just like OT
    - c. Note Paul's use of financial terms - he handled carefully
- C. New Testament giving - discontinuities
  - 1. The tithe is no longer binding
    - a. Tithe - 31 x in OT - never in NT!
    - b. Concept in Matthew 23:23 - law to Pharisees
  - 2. The NT principle - cheerful grace giving
    - a. 2 Cor. 9:6-8 - Give as determine, cheerfully

- b. v8 - grace abound - grace precedes & follows giving!
- c. The principle of treasure - Matthew 6:19-21, 24
- d. The example of the Philippians -
  - 1. 2 Cor. 8:1-5 - gave on their own; sacrificially; to God
  - 2. Phil 4:15-16 - gave from beginning - get Gospel out!
- e. This is a heart amazed & motivated by grace!

- 6. If you struggle with giving - meditate on the Gospel
- 7. If you struggle with giving - meditate on Christ

C. Grace abounding - the Lord's Supper (led by Jer)

**Provision - Financial Support and Church Planting**

Philippians 4:10-20; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Psalm 18:1-3

April 10, 2011

Communion

Psalm 115:14-15

**IV. Applying the Word**

A. Where is my heart? Where is my treasure?

- 1. Jesus went to the heart of the matter in Matthew 6
- 2. Where is my heart? Where is my treasure?
- 3. I do not know who gives, or what they give
- 4. This is a principle I have followed for years
- 5. My concern is our heart, our treasure
- 6. What do we really live for? What is most important to me?
- 7. We WILL give to that - true of churches & people
- 8. Do we have a passion for others to know?

B. Am I amazed by by God's overwhelming, abounding grace?

- 1. Do we see the treasure we have in the Gospel?
- 2. Do we see all God's has done for us - purely by grace?
- 3. Do we marvel at this grace given to us?
- 4. Do we have a passion that others would know this grace?
- 5. If you struggle with giving - meditate on grace

I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting. Numbers 18:21

A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. Leviticus 27:30

Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk? 8 Do I say this merely from a human point of view? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned?

10 Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. 11 If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?

12 If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. 13 Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? 14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:7-14

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. Matthew 23:23

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.... 24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." Matt 6:19-21, 24

And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. 5 And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

May the LORD make you increase, both you and your children. 15 May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalms 115:14-15

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I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength. 14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. 17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. 20 Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Philippians 4:10-20

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Cor 9:6-8

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