

SYNC: A Lifestyle of Generosity

(II Corinthians 9:6-11)

Introduction

- A) The world tells you that if you want wealth, hold onto everything.
- B) The Bible does promote hard work, saving, and wise investment. God always rejects hoarding, tight-fistedness, stinginess, etc.
- C) God's economy has always been contrary to the world's.
God's path to prosperity is generosity.

Proverbs 19:17 says, "Kindness to the poor is a loan to the Lord, and He will give a reward to the lender."

Proverbs 11:24-25 says, "One person gives freely, yet gains more; another withholds what is right, only to become poor."

Luke 6:38 says, "Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

- D) What you give it's invested with God and He pays dividends on it. The generous Christian never fears not having enough.
- E) **Contextualize this sermon** in the series SYNC.
- F) **Contextualize 2 Corinthians 9:6-11.**
"Throughout much of his ministry, the apostle Paul solicited money for "the poor among the saints in Jerusalem" (Rom. 15:26) for about five years (A.D. 52-57). He solicited funds from the Christians in Galatia (Acts 18:23; 1

Cor. 16:1), Macedonia (Acts 19:22; 2 Cor. 8:1-5; 9:2, 4), Achaia (Rom. 15:26; 1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8—9), and Asia Minor.

They were poor because of the consequence of their conversion to Christianity.

Paul devoted a great deal of time and energy to the collection.

- 1) Love for needy fellow believers
- 2) The gift would honor Jesus.
- 3) The gift would equalize God's provision for His people's physical needs.
- 4) The gift would provide a visual demonstration of the equality that exists between Gentile and Jewish Christians (Eph. 2:11-22).
- 5) For Paul personally, it was one way that he could compensate in part for his earlier persecution of the Jerusalem saints (Acts 8:3; 9:1; 26:10-11; 1 Cor. 15:9; Gal. 1:13; 1 Tim. 1:13).

I. Understanding True Generosity

Principle: *God replenishes the resources of the person committed to generosity so that he may meet additional needs of others.*

- A) God's Generosity Principle (9:6)
- B) Your Choice Toward Generosity (9:7a)
- C) God's Response to Generosity (9:7b)
- D) God's Resourcing of Generosity (9:8a)
- E) God's Goal for Generosity (9:8b)

II. Demonstrating True Generosity

Principle: *Generosity does not hinge on resources, but results from a heart committed to God's economy.*

- A) Their poverty (8:1-2)
- B) Their eagerness (8:3-4)
- C) Their generosity (8:2-4)

Conclusion

“8) I am not saying this as a command. Rather, by means of the diligence of others, I am testing the genuineness of your love. 9) For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though He was rich, for your sake He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich.”