

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, June 13-14, 2020

SERIES: LIVING IN THE PARENTHESIS: *Steps to a Joyful and Meaningful Life*

SERMON: Live Generously

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

[1] There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord's people.

[2] For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action.

[3] But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be.

[4] For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident.

[5] So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.

[6] Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

[7] Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

[8] And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

[9] As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”

[10] Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

[11] You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

[12] This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

[13] Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

[14] And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.

[15] Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, June 13-14, 2020

SERIES: LIVING IN THE PARENTHESIS: *Steps to a Joyful and Meaningful Life*

SERMON: Live Generously

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

To Live Generously . . .

1. To live generously is to be _____.

- God is _____ in all things
- *James 1:17* Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

2. To live generously is a _____ of _____ gift.

3. To live generously is an _____ of _____.

- Nothing makes you _____ the church like _____ in worship.
- Consider not just _____ you give: but _____ you give and with what _____ you do so.

4. To live generously is a _____ of _____.

5. To live generously results in _____.

- *Luke 6:38* 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 to you.
- Be careful! The devil wants you to _____ God's money.

6. To live generously lays up _____ in _____.

- *Acts 20:35* In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
- *Malachi 3:8-10* Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' 'In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.'
- If these passages are true – and they are – we can believe that at a definite time, in a real place, God is actually going to reward us bountifully for what we have given generously and cheerfully. – Donald Whitney

Lagniappe

What a joy it is to have our congregation meeting together in ever growing numbers. We certainly have a long way to go, but I believe the church is up to the task and that we will see God working in wonderful and powerful ways.

Here are events you need to know about in the coming weeks:

Next weekend - Father's Day Weekend - June 20-21. Our worship schedule will be 6:00 PM Saturday, with 9:30 and 11:00 AM on Sunday. Moving to Phrase Two has allowed us to move back to our regular schedule.

Also, beginning next weekend we will re-institute *childcare* for birth - four years old, and *Kids Worship* for K - 2nd Grade, at all three worship services. To make sure we are prepared, *you will be required to register your children in advance.* You can begin registration this weekend, on-line or at the kiosk.

Sunday June 28 at noon. We will observe the ordinance of baptism in the outdoor baptistry *following* the 11:00 AM service. Most of these people professed their faith during the shutdown. We received more than fifty people for church membership during that 10-week period.

Sunday June 28 at 6:00 PM. Our *virtual* Discovery Class will meet to help those who are new or newer discover the uniqueness, vision, and purpose of FBC. You can register in advance - or simply go to FBCCov.org to participate in the interactive live-stream.

July 8-10. Vacation Bible School returns to First Baptist Church in a 3-day format – real & in-person, not virtual. The structure and times will be different, but still have as much spiritual instruction and fun as ever. *You will need to register your children for this event.*

I am thankful for these significant events and anxious to see what God will do through all of this, knowing that God works all things together for our good.

WAYLON