

Outline

Money: A Surprising Source for Joy

"It is more blessed to give than receive." Acts 20:35

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you¹⁰—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

⁸I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

¹⁰And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. ¹¹Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. ¹²For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

¹³Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need.

I. God Owns Everything We Have.

"They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us." (vs. 5)

"In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity." (vs. 2)

Overflowing Joy

2 Corinthians 8:1-14

2/11/24

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it; Psalm 24:1*

*Who has a claim against me that I must pay?
Everything under heaven belongs to me. Job 41:11*

"We Give Thee but Thine Own."

"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, so 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. Malachi 3:8-10

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,

and he will reward them for what they have done. Proverbs 19:17

"...but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses" Proverbs 28:27

II. Jesus Gave Us Everything.

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others." (vs. 8)

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." (vs. 9)

III. You Can Take It with You!

"At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need." (vs. 14)

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal." Matthew 6: 19-20

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Matthew 24:35

*"Grass withers and flowers fade away,
when the LORD's breath blows on them,
but the word of our God will stand forever." Isaiah 40:8*