

the TAKE HOME 11.13.16

Today's Scripture Passage: 2 Corinthians 9:2-5

²For 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. ³But 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵So 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.

Our Fallen Condition: We say we are eager to give, others may even think well of us or brag about our eagerness, but our talk is sometimes hollow. We are not always ready to back up our words and we feel shame when we don't step up and our mentors may also feel shame. Sometimes we give, but we do so grudgingly.

The Big Idea: God wants us to give generously to His work, not because we have to, but because of all that He has given us in Christ.

Application and Reflection...

- Which of the eight reasons for giving stand out to you? Why?
- How do you believe God wants you to prepare yourself spiritually & practically for generous giving in this next year?
- Have you ever considered that giving generously could be fun? How might you enjoy your giving to God's work more this next season?
- How is God changing you through your giving?
- As you give, how is He taking care of you?
- How is He changing the people, the church, or the organizations you give to?

Prayer

- Pray about how God might be leading you to invest more time and finances in His work here at Crossroads and in your world.
- Pray for the Pastoral Search Team and Elders this week as they begin a discernment phase with the three pastoral candidates.

Sermon Notes

Eight Reasons to Give Generously

1. Our enthusiasm fires others up v.2
2. We reap what we sow v.6-10
3. A good attitude in giving delights God v.7
4. God is able to bless us abundantly v.8-9
5. God will be thanked v.11-12
6. We are supplying the needs of the Lord's people v.12
7. We are proving our obedience v.13
8. You get additional prayer support v.14

Three Tips

- Prepare yourself (v.3 be ready, v.5 finish the arrangements)
- Have some fun with it (v.6 God loves a cheerful giver).
- Pay attention to the results (v.8, v.11, v.12, v.14)