



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

1, 2 Kings Sermon Series

Supports Session 10: God Honors

Sermon Title: "God & Giving" (2 Corinthians 9:6-15)

Connection to 2 Kings 12:4-16

God is honored and glorified when the resources that are given to His work are properly stewarded. We see this principle in 2 Kings 12:4-16 when King Joash and the priest Jehoiada used resources to repair the temple. We see this principle in 2 Corinthians as well when an offering for the Macedonians was given by the church at Corinth.

Introduction/Opening

We know we have walked into the home of a parent or grandparent of a little child when we see "art" work on the refrigerator. The art is never in the lines, but the masterpiece is on full display. The artist can articulate the dream with great clarity and offers it to the parent or grandparent with love and affection. The recipient listens intently to the explanation and can't wait to display it for the world to see.

The art of giving can be like the artwork of a preschooler. We try our very best, but we tend to color outside the lines. We want to offer our masterpiece to the heavenly Father with great joy and He is willing to accept it right where we are at. Let's investigate the heart of giving and see how God responds to our efforts.

Outline

1. We are **Invited** to Give

a) We should give generously (v. 6). Giving, according to God's plan, is like planting. When a farmer plants his crop, he probably does not think about how small of a harvest he can achieve. He most likely thinks about how large the harvest will be. Can we look at our giving this way? Hopefully the harvest will not be in the here and now either. Let's pray that the abundant harvest will be in our eternal home.

b) We should give cheerfully (v. 7). A study of the Greek word translated "cheerfully" shows that we get our word *hilarious* from it. God's Word is telling us that others should look at our giving and think that it is funny. Others should think that it is wild that we are willing to give our hard-earned money to God's church.

We also see in this verse that God loves a cheerful giver. The Greek word used for love is *agape*. This is the love of self-sacrifice. For God so loved the world that He gave, and He gave His very best. God loves a cheerful giver because the cheerful giver because He too is a cheerful giver.

c) **We should give from the heart (v. 7).** Giving is not a money issue, it is a heart issue. Each individual needs to decide in his heart what and how he is going to give. When the decision is made from the heart, we commune with God, and He continues the sanctification process of changing us from the inside out.

2. God Honors our Giving

a) **He meets our needs (v. 8).** There is a significant difference between a want and a need. The goal is growing in our understanding of what is truly a need. The Bible teaches us that God will meet our needs. The key to understanding and applying this passage is to trust in the goodness of God, no matter the circumstances. If we trust in His goodness, then we will trust in Him to meet our needs. If we do not trust Him, then we are apt to hoard the resources He has given us resulting in giving sparingly if at all.

b) **He enriches us (v. 11).** This is not a passage that teaches, “If I give \$10, God will give me \$100.” That teaching is simply false. The passage teaches that if we chose to give generously and cheerfully, God will enrich us to be able to give more.

When we give generously to God’s Kingdom, others thank God for having their needs met. The enrichment that is promised can be greater financial blessing for additional giving. It can also be seeing someone praise God for meeting their needs. It is impossible to put a dollar sign on the blessing of seeing something like this firsthand.

c) **He receives the glory (v. 13).** If someone says, “I hope to” or “I might”, it would be wise to not hold your breath in anticipation of them accomplishing the assigned task. If, however, someone says, “I will” the odds go up substantially.

Paul told the church at Corinth that others “will glorify God” for their obedience to the gospel and their generosity. Paul wrote this as a statement of fact. The fact applied then and it applies now. Our calling as followers of Christ is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. The Bible states that we can accomplish this calling when we stand on the truth of the gospel and generously give to God’s church.

Conclusion

Part of the character and nature of God is that He gives. The most quoted verse in the Bible (John 3:16) reveals His heart in giving His very best out of love for the world. When we give, we are becoming more and more like God, and this is part of our sanctification.

Giving can be scary because we may not be sure if we are going to have enough left over to meet our needs. This is where faith resides. He said that He would meet our needs. Let’s trust Him and take Him at His word.

Tod Tanner has degrees from Texas A&M University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Texas and Tennessee. He and his family reside in Wartrace, TN and he is serving as the Vice President of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

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