



ROUTE 66 - Pastor Tim Chambers

Key Idea: *The Books of First and Second Corinthians...Making Giving Your Joy, Not Your Job.*

Scriptures Used: Acts 18:9-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 & 3:6-9; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, 8:1-5, 8:7 & 8:12.

Share: Much of what Paul covered in 1 Corinthians regarded Jesus's role as head of the church, the result of what Jesus did on the cross. However, so much of what the Corinthian church was doing defied the headship of Christ: *They were choosing worldly wisdom and ways over godly gratitude and grace. Where Jesus championed unity among His people, they broke off into factions, looking to lift themselves above other believers instead of following Jesus's example and lowering themselves to serve everyone. They were saved but selfish.*

Discuss:

1) *What's are things we can put into practice to keep us from being selfish and choosing worldly wisdom over the headship of Christ?*

Share: The results of the Corinthian church operating in their own strength revealed themselves in **sexual impurity** and a **lack of doctrinal clarity**, *particularly about Jesus's resurrection*, which is what sets Christianity apart from other religions and Jesus apart from other religious leaders. On his second missionary journey, Paul came to Corinth—a city known for its depravity—and stayed for a year and a half, working as a tentmaker during the week and preaching in the temple on the Sabbath. While he was there, God told him...**Acts 18:9-10** ***"Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city."***

Discuss:

1) *What encouragement can we find in what God spoke to the Apostle Paul?*

2) *Why was it important then and vital now that God's people speak up and not keep silent in the face of evil?*

Share: Giving is at the center of what it is and what it means to be a Christ follower. In one of the most famous verses in the bible we are told that Gods Love for the world was so great that He GAVE His only Son...To be like Christ we must possess the attitude and attribute of giving.

Read: 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (NIV)“Now about the collection for the Lord’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”

Discuss:

- 1) What does it take for God’s people to give regularly, consistently, and intentionally to God’s House and God’s Work and why is it important that we make giving a regular practice?
- 2) What attributes of giving monetarily are an act of worship to God?
- 3) How do things like comparison or greed impact us from giving “in keeping with our income”?

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 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." 10-11 (NIV) "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. 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."

Discuss:

- 1) What things should we avoid when giving and what things should we do when giving?
- 2) What principles and promises of God stand out to you in these verses?

Read: 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 (NIV)"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building."

Discuss:

- 1) What are the seeds that we plant and how do we water the seeds?

2) Which of these perspectives give you the most encouragement today: a) God makes the seed grow, b) we are co-workers in God's service, c) the planter and the sower will each be rewarded according to their own labor, d) we are God's field and God's building?

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (NIV) "And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us."

Discuss:

1) Describe the Macedonian churches' giving?

2) What was the key to their generosity and what can we learn from them?

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV) "But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving."

Discuss:

1) What do you think would happen in the body of Christ if we all prayed for God to give us the grace of giving?

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:12 (NIV) "For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have."

Discuss:

1) What does this verse teach us about giving?

Closing Remarks: Giving is a privilege, not a chore. God has invited us to be co-workers in His kingdom, to plant seeds and water them, trusting that He will make them grow. As we shift our perspective to see giving as an opportunity to partner with God, focus on the eternal impact, and celebrate the process, we will find that giving becomes our joy—not just our job.

Upcoming Event: Fresh Start Harvest Festival on October 27th 4 to 6 pm Please sign up to volunteer on the Church Center App. Pray for this event and invite someone.