INTRODUCTION

- Giving is another priority we need to factor in
- These 2 chapters provide the best criteria for giving in the New Testament era of Grace – Proportionately, Consistently, Sacrificially, Willingly, Generously, and Cheerfully

### PASSAGE

#### The Poor give to the Poorer

- The Macedonians willingly and cheerfully gave beyond their ability to help other saints  
  - **NOTE:** This does not justify taking on dept to give to the Lord’s work  
  - **Illus.** One poor couple charged $1000 on their credit card to give to missions, and it took years to pay it off. They are now divorced

#### Motivation to Give till it Hurts – With JOY

- The Corinthians were to view the Macedonian generosity as motivation to do the same  
  - **NOTE 1:** Sacrificial giving may mean going without, but it does not mean going into debt  
  - **NOTE 2:** God wants obedience before sacrifice, so first make sure your heart is in the right place

#### Principle of Equality

- Paul was not establishing a commune where you only have 1 class of people – but was showing we need to take care of those who have true needs so they will be in a better position to help others

#### Financial Accountability

- Paul was intended to take money from various churches back to Judea to help the saints there through a crisis, possibly a famine.  
  - **Acts 11:28,29**

#### Godly Giving is Thoughtful Giving

- Giving should be planned out – How much, to whom, when, why, where, how long  
- If we give after being moved by an emotional appeal we could find ourselves giving too much and hurting our family (Corban giving), giving to a wrong cause (a scam), or giving for show (wrong attitude) – which means God will not bless

#### God Loves [agape] a Cheerful [hilaros] Giver

- “Cheerful” is derived from “hilaros” where we get our word hilarious from. This is the only time this word is used in the Bible  
- So our giving to God should not be out of greed, compulsion, show, or pride, but with the right motivation to willingly and joyfully please God  
  - **NOTE:** Godly motivation includes giving that we might receive God’s blessings – Not to receive more money, but more righteousness (v10)

### OLD TESTAMENT TITHING ONLY SUPPORTED THE MINISTERS – NOT THE MINISTRY

- Tithes & Offerings were for Israelites only  
  - **Deut 33:29**

- Tithes were meant to support about 10% of the Jewish population – the Levites; and to show their total reliance on God and not on their own ability to make a living  
  - **Num 18:24; Deut 14:23**

- Tithes were on the first fruits (gross) of the land (crops and livestock), and if one withheld their tithe, a 20% penalty would be assessed  
  - **Lev 27:31**

- Tithes were mandatory. Curses were pronounced on the Land if they did not give  
- And Tithes were not for Temple repair or upkeep  
  - **Mal 3:9-11**

- OT Tithes only supported the Ministers, not the Ministry  
  - (i.e., Tithes did not support buildings and outreach)

- A flat tax, 1/2 shekel per person over 20 years old, was instituted for temple repairs  
  - **Ex 30:12-16.** It was reduced to 1/3 shekel after Babylonian captivity due to their poverty  
  - **Neh 10:31**

- Jews were commanded to prove God to be true in respect to being blessed through their sacrificial giving  
  - **Mal 3:10-12**

- God would bless the 6th year with 3 years of food to provide nourishment during the 6th year, the 7th & Sabbath year of rest, & for the 8th year to replenish  
  - If they Tithed  
  - **Lev 25:21**

- During the 50th year of Jubilee, God would bless 49th year with 4 years of food to cover for the 49th year, the 49th year (which was a Sabbath year of rest), the 50th year of Jubilee (another year of rest), and the 51st year to replenish  
  - If they Tithed  
  - **Lev 25:11-12**

- God would prevent any nation from coveting their land and warring with them when they brought their Tithes to Jerusalem 3 times a year  
  - **Ex 34:24**

- No other nation has ever been under such a Land covenant

### NEW TESTAMENT GIVING SUPPORTS THE MINISTERS & THE MINISTRY

- Though, NT believers are not commanded to give, we are greatly urged to give in 6 different ways:
  1. **Proportionately** - percentage-based, as God has prospered, let each man decide for himself  
  - **2Cor 8:12, 2Cor 9:7**

  2. **Consistently** – not just once, but continuously & regularly, practically on the “first day of every week”  
  - **1Cor 16:2**

  3. **Willingly** – without coercion / manipulation  
  - **1Tim 6:18; 2Cor 8:3**

  4. **Cheerfully** – hopeful attitude, this is not lost money  
  - **2Cor 9:7**

  5. **Sacrificially** – true discipleship is costly  
  - **2Cor 8:2-3; Heb 13:16**

  6. **Generously** – much, more than needed.  
  - **Luke 6:38; 2Cor 9:6**

- Giving is greatly encouraged, but no curses are pronounced on the NT believer or on their land; Only blessings to those who give  
  - **Exception:** Ananias and Sapphira who lied about their giving in  

- But the Lord leaves it up to each individual believer on how to give, what to give, where to give, and when to give  
  - **2Cor 9:7**

### CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- New Testament Tithing (aka: proportionate, consistent, willful, cheerful, sacrificial & generous giving) will always reap rewards for the believer – but they may not be what is desired, or received when wanted, or even received in this life time (cf. the widow w/ 2 mites in Mark 12:42-44 and the godly, but destitute, widows of 1Timothy 5.5 who had to trust in God and pray night and day for food and financial relief)

### NEXT WEEK

2Cor 10-13. Paul couldn’t even get his thorn in the flesh healed yet he accomplished more for the Gospel than all of his critics combined. How did he do this?