

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 March 2018.....	1Cor 1-3.....	United in Christ
2) 11 March.....	1Cor 4-6.....	Glorifying God
3) 18 March.....	1Cor 7.....	Keeping Commitments
4) 25 March.....	1Cor 8-10.....	Influencing for Christ
5) 01 April.....	1Cor 15-16.....	Assurance of the Resurrection
6) 08 April.....	1Cor 11.....	Remembering the Sacrifice
7) 15 April.....	1Cor 12 & 14.....	Serving God's People
8) 22 April.....	1Cor 13.....	Understanding Love
9) 29 April.....	2Cor 1-2.....	Enjoying God's Comfort
10) 06 May.....	2Cor 3-5.....	Displaying the Gospel
11) 13 May.....	2Cor 5-7.....	Becoming New
12) 20 May.....	2Cor 8-9.....	Giving Faithfully
13) 27 May.....	2Cor 10-13.....	Finding Strength

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	Comments
8:1-5	<p>The Poor give to the Poorer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Macedonians willingly and cheerfully gave beyond their ability to help other saints • NOTE: This does not justify taking on debt 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
8:6-12	<p>Motivation to Give till it Hurts – With JOY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
8:13-15	<p>Principle of Equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
8:16-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Accountability • Paul was intended to take money from various churches back to Judea to help the saints there through a crisis, possibly a famineActs 11:28,29
9:1-5	<p>Godly Giving is Thoughtful Giving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
9:6-15	<p>God Loves [agape] a Cheerful [hilaros] Giver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Cheerful” is derived from “<i>hilaros</i>” where we get our word <i>hilarious</i> 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 or 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 48th year with 4 years of food to cover for the 48th 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** – give much – reap much.....[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 [Acts 5:1-11](#))..[2Cor 9:8](#)
- Jesus never said “if you give,” but “when you give”[Mat 6:2-3](#)
- ...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?



It's funny to see a cheerful giver...