

Church Rhythm 3
The Rhythm of Generous Giving
Phil 2:4

I. Intro

- A. Giving is a central theme throughout scripture.
- B. Giving of time, talent, and treasure does something in the hearts of believers:
 - 1. Reminds us of our dependence on God
 - 2. Reminds us of our responsibility to God and the mission
 - 3. Reminds us of the joy of participation
 - 4. Also reminds us of the source of our blessing
- C. Giving generously allows us to participate in the ongoing Kingdom work of the church in a way that is personal and private, but also corporate and connected.

II. Text

- A. Let each of you not only look to your own interests, but to the interest of others
 - 1. This is the heart of giving
 - 2. Missing this truth is also the challenge to giving
 - 3. There is joy in giving, and blessing in giving
- B. New Testament
 - 1. [2Co 9:5-15 ESV] 5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction. 6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." 10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. 13 By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. 15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!
 - 2. Promises from this text:
 - a) Sow sparingly, reap sparingly
 - b) Sow bountifully, reap bountifully
 - c) God loves cheerful giving
 - d) God is able to make all grace abound to you
 - e) God will supply and multiply
 - f) You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way

III. Points

- A. The Joy of Giving
 - 1. It is a joy to give
 - 2. Giving allows you to see the tangible work of God in your life and the world around you.
 - 3. It is good to see God work.
 - 4. It is good to be in rhythm with God regarding your finances and generosity
 - 5. Joy comes through OBEDIENCE to the Lord, and it is good.
 - 6. Old saying: You can't out give God!
 - a) I know this to be true

- b) I know this to be Biblical
 - c) I also know that walking in this truth allows you to see your finances as God's for you to manage well.
- B. The Expectation of Giving
1. Before the Law
 - a) [Gen 14:17-20 ESV] 17 After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) 19 And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.
 - b) It was not yet given in the law, yet was on the heart of Abram to give a tenth.
 2. Commanded in the Law
 - a) [Deu 14:22-27 ESV] 22 "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. 23 And before the LORD your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. 24 And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the LORD your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the LORD your God chooses, to set his name there, 25 then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the LORD your God chooses 26 and spend the money for whatever you desire--oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the LORD your God and rejoice, you and your household. 27 And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.
 - b) Giving of your resources was a command from God in obedience to the law
 - c) [Mal 3:8-12 ESV] 8 Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. 10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. 11 I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. 12 Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.
 3. Expected in the church
 - a) Some would wrongly say that tithing is not a new testament concept, so you don't need to tithe any longer.
 - (1) Remember: the law was a tutor, and a guide
 - (2) The responsibility is to give as our Lord gave...everything
 - (3) You know when you are refusing to give as the Lord compels
 - (4) The New Testament concept of giving seems to start with the tithe and expand to larger giving of more than the tithe.
 - b) Tithes: [Luk 11:42 ESV] 42 "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.
 - c) Offerings: Cheerful giving
 - d) Eternal investment
 - (1) This is where we really need to focus our attention.
 - (2) Throughout scripture we see the challenge to trust the Lord in all things, and to give in all ways.

- (3) We give to the church
- (4) We give to organizations that do eternal work
- (5) We invest in the mission.

- 4. Summary:
 - a) Disobedience comes with consequences
 - b) Obedience comes with blessing

C. The Participation of Giving

- 1. We give together, we find the joy of obedience in the shared response to God.
- 2. When we give,
 - a) We yield a very special place of our heart to God
 - b) We further walk by faith and belief that our Lord has provided and will provide.
- 3. What giving does:
 - a) Giving effects your perspective
 - b) Giving influences your decisions
 - c) Giving knits your heart to the heart of God
- 4. What giving does not do:
 - a) Giving does not save you
 - b) Giving does not make God love you more
 - c) Giving does not guarantee God will grant your desires.

IV. Close

- A. I challenge you to GIVE and find JOY
- B. I compel you to go to the Lord and ask for the courage to walk in obedience
- C. I pray for you as the Lord works in your life in regards to this truth.
- D. Lets give together
- E. Lets give generously and in rhythm with God!