

The grace of giving – 2Cor.8,9

- “Greed is Good” – Gordon Gecko
- “Greed is idolatry” – Col.3:5; Eph.5:5
- “Giving displays the Gospel of Grace”

1. Giving is at the heart of the Gospel – 8:9; 9:15

Giving displays:-

- a. Who God is – a gracious God & Father
- b. What he has done – The Father giving his Son
- The Son giving his life
- c. What he is doing & will do – giving us new life
now and an imperishable inheritance-1Pet.1:3-5

2. Giving is at the heart of Christian discipleship – 8:1; 9:14

- a. Willingness to sacrifice – 8:2,3
- b. Enthusiastic, joyful giving – 8:3,4; 9:7
- c. As we give we worship God – 8:5; 9:12-15
- d. Helps us become more like Jesus – 8:8-10
- e. Expresses Christian unity – 8:13-15; 9:12-14

Words used by Paul to describe giving –

grace, blessing, ministry/service, fellowship

8:1,4,6,7,9,19; 9:1,8,12-14

3. The practice of giving

- a. Proportionate, “as we are able” – 8:10-15
- b. Planned – 8:10,11; 9:6-11; 1Cor.16:1,2
- c. Purposeful – for the praise of God –9:12-15
 - for the blessing of others – 9:12,13
 - for our joy& blessing – 9:6-11;Mal.3:10
- d. Administered well – 8:16-24

4.Receiving & displaying God's grace

a. Receiving forgiveness & new life 1Pet.1:3,4

b. Displaying God's grace, with our spiritual gifts, time, energy and MONEY

“Love is the overflow of joy in God which gladly meets the need of others” (Piper)

- a deeply satisfying experience of the fullness of God's grace

- a doubly satisfying experience of sharing that grace with another person