

God Loves A Cheerful Giver

2 Cor. 8:1-5

God Owns Everything

- **The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. (Psalm 24:1)**
- **“The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,” says the LORD of hosts. (Haggai 2:8)**
- **And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth...(Deut. 8:18)**
- **Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him?
Everything under heaven is Mine. (Job 41:11)**
- **For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
(1 Cor. 6:20)**

God Owns Everything And I'm His Money Manager

- **Steward** – one who manages assets for the owner's benefit. One who is entrusted to carry out the owner's will.
- **Romans 14:10b** – For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
- **Romans 14:12** – So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

God Expects Us to Generously Give HIS Money to Aid HIS Causes

- **2 Corinthians 8:1-5**
- **Macedonian Christians:**
 - **Abundance of joy**
 - **Great trial of affliction**
 - **Deep poverty**
 - **Riches of their liberality**
 - **Gave beyond their ability**
 - **Were freely willing**
 - **Implored with much urgency**
 - **First gave themselves to the Lord**

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- What motivated the Macedonians to give?**
- God's grace!**
- 2 Cor. 8:9 – For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.**
- 2 Cor. 9:15 – Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!**

God Expects Us to Generously Give HIS Money to Aid HIS Causes

- **What causes are important to Christ?**
- **Teaching the Gospel and Making Disciples**
 - **Luke 8:1-3 – Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities – Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.**

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- **What causes are important to Christ?**
 - **Teaching the Gospel and Making Disciples**
 - **Gal. 6:6 – Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.**
 - **1 Cor. 9:14 – Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel**

God Expects Us to Generously Give HIS Money to Aid HIS Causes

- **What causes are important to Christ?**
- **Helping those in need**
 - **Proverbs 21:13 – Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard.**
 - **Matt. 25:35-36 – For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.**
 - **V. 40 – Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.**

It is Giving, Not Receiving, That Provides Immeasurable Joy

- Acts 20:35 – I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”**
- 2 Cor. 9:6-7 – But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.**

It is Giving, Not Receiving, That Provides Immeasurable Joy

- Exodus 36:6-7 – So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, “Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary.” And the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done – indeed too much.**
- 1 Chron. 29:14 – But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.**

Giving Proves That We Love God More Than We Love Ourselves

- Jeremiah 22:15-16 – Did not your father eat and drink, and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. He judged (defended) the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Was not this knowing Me?” says the LORD.**
- Does the frequency, amount, and attitude of my giving prove that my greatest treasure is the kingdom of God or the things of this world?**