

# Sunday School Lesson for the Month of November 2016

## A New Day In Giving

(2 Corinthians 9:1-7)

Sunday, November 6, 2016

From a heart of stewardship flows the lifeblood of giving. God gave! Jesus gave! What would the church be like today if all Christians gave as graciously as they expected God to give to them? Catch a vision of what God wants to do through our church by looking at three simple principles.

### I. We must be ready to help.

- A. Give because Christ gave. In this sense, the subject of giving needs no discussion. Paul writes in verse 1 that it is "superfluous" to discuss the topic. Why then does he proceed to do so?
- B. Look at other disciplines. Christians should pray. But one must be disciplined in learning how to pray. Does one automatically listen to a sermon? Are believers' verbal witnesses of their faith in Christ naturally? They may have a desire to witness but do they act on it? The practices of the faith are cultivated by discipleship. Young Christians grow into mature believers: Likewise, young Christians must be trained to understand the importance of stewardship.
- C. Keep an open door for ministry. Stand ready to help. You cannot do everything but you can do something. Always be ready to do what you can do.
- D. Look at the ministry of Jesus. People always asked Him for help. In Luke 10:40, Martha asked Jesus to tell her sister to help her. In Mark 9:24, the father of the boy with the evil spirit cried for help. In Matthew 15:25, the Canaanite woman cried, "Lord, help me." Does one hear Jesus requesting help? No. Why? Because He came to give. We must be ready to help!

## Sunday, November 13, 2016

### II. Our help proves our sincerity.

Paul boasted about the accomplishments of the Corinthian Christians. He spoke positive words about their ministries. He added that their performance should match their potential.

- A. Match the ideal with the real. Growing churches want to expand ministries, reach out to hurting people, and increase mission efforts. If the church dreams of doing - then it must do!
- B. When there is no planning and no preparation, goals are usually not accomplished. In a typical church, fewer than half of the members provide financial support. The problem for many people is that they do not plan to give. What a tragedy!
- C. A person who gives nothing to support the ministry of the church, needs to take personal and spiritual inventory. Helping proves sincerity according to Paul. Authentic Christian giving is rooted in the fertile soil of God's love.

## Sunday, November 20, 2016

### III. Sincerity grows out of love.

- A. Paul suggests, "Give bountifully." The term comes from a concept that means blessing. Literally, will you bless God by your giving? Paul said that one should have a contagious enthusiasm and excitement in sharing and supporting the ministry of the church.
- B. Think about giving love. Is the real reward in giving – Love? Paul says, "God loves a cheerful giver!" The term "cheerful" here comes from the same Greek word from which we get our word, "hilarious." The joy resulting from giving to God should be like that of a parent watching a child at Christmas opening a special gift.
- C. Sincerity grows out of love, and love must come from the heart. The real source of financial support of the church is not the checkbook, but the heart! Paul says in verse 7, that

“each man should give what he decided in his heart to give” (NIV). A committed heart will love enough to care and to give liberally.

Helping proves sincerity. Sincerity stems from love. John summarized the basis for this love when he wrote, “we love because [God] first loved us.” (1 John 4:19 NIV)