

## A Decision to Give

Luke 12.13-34

It may seem crazy, but the best investment a Christian can make *by far* is to give of time, talent, and treasure to the Lord. To *be a giver* reflects the heart of Christ. Where your treasure is, there your heart is. Have you made a *conscious decision* to give to the Lord?

*Giving begins in the heart, a response to receiving.*

- *It is better to give than to receive*
- *God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9.8)*
- *Cheerful giving is a 'thank you' for having received*

*Giving highlights an awareness of heavenly rewards*

- *Lay up treasures in heaven*
- *Giving to needy is 'loaning to God'! (Prov. 19.17)*
- *Earthly/temporal vs eternal rewards*

*Giving involves time, talents, and treasure*

- *The challenge of giving wisely (Toxic Charity)*
- *The challenge of giving secretly (Mt 6.1-4)*
- *The challenge of giving sacrificially (Lk 21.1-4)*



Joy  
of Giving

One of the most illuminating passages of Scripture on the subject of giving is 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9. Grab a cup of coffee and read through these two chapters, then reflect on the following questions.

1. What stands out in the description of the Macedonians in 8.1-5? What motivated their giving? What excuses might they have made for not giving? How would you describe their 'heart' for the Lord?
2. What factors in the lives of the Corinthian Christians does Paul appeal to as motivation for them to give to needy saints in Jerusalem (see 8.6-24)? Did you notice how Paul spoke of giving as a *gracious work*? What is his *illustration* of this kind of giving? What specific guidelines and recommendations does he include for our giving?
3. In 2 Corinthians 9.6-15, Paul gives general *principles* for Christian giving. In v6, what does it mean to *reap* (either sparingly or bountifully)? In v7, what attitude does God love in our giving? In vv8-11, what is God able to do for those who give (see Philippians 4.19 as well)? (Does this mean God will make them rich?) In vv12-14, what is the result for all Christians, those who give, and those who receive? No wonder Paul closes with these words: *Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift (9.15)!*

