

Intentional – Willing - Generous

Giving God's Way – Part 4

II Corinthians 8:24-9:7

Two Inter-woven Themes

Practical Instruction

How to give God's way...

- o Administering the gifts – above reproach
- o Attitude of giving – intentional, willing and generous

Pastoral Exhortation

- o How we live (in this case: *give*) is the outward fruit of which God's grace is the inner root.
- o Get on with Giving God's way – for failure to do that implies grace that may be in vain and salvation that may be illusion.

Practical Instruction

Intentional – *arranged in advance* 9:5a, 7a

- Ready = planned in advance and then carried out. Consciously conceived & purposefully executed.
- Intent conceived a year before! I Cor 16:1-4
- See 8:10-12; 9:2; 9:3-4
- Note 9:3-5 – Paul sent the 3 brothers so that the gift would be ready
- Consider the following...
 - Norm is not just an emotional & spontaneous appeal
 - Automated giving? danger of ‘autopilot’
 - Husband and wife both involved. Kids.
 - *Barrett Family Giving Project* (BFGP)

Practical Instruction

Intentional – *arranged in advance* 9:5a, 7a

Willing – *not grudgingly given* 9:5b, 7b

- Not ‘an exaction’ – i.e. something resulting from severe pressure and demand. Like pulling teeth...
- Not reluctantly – i.e. ‘of pain’
- A joyous blessing! A privilege! See 8:3.
- Considerations...
 - If it makes you grimace to give, keep it.
 - If it’s like pulling teeth, don’t do it.
 - It should be a joy, not a root canal!
 - This is a work of God... a sign of grace... a New Covenant blessing... a fruit of the new nature’s root!

Intentional – Willing – Generous (II Cor 8:24-9:7)

Practical Instruction

Intentional – *arranged in advance* 9:5a, 7a

Willing – *not grudgingly given* 9:5b, 7b

Generous – *cheerful bounty, not stingy* 9:6, 7

- Exuberantly overflowing, generosity – see 8:2!
- Compulsive, enslaving, soul-destroying grasping



Gollum



Sméagol

Practical Instruction

Pastoral Exhortation

Paul's pastoral concern is for their souls, their spiritual lives, the reality & vitality of their new heart

- See 8:7-8; 24; 9:3; 6:1
- Bad fruit would reveal a bad root
- Giving reflects the character of the heart.
- Giving must be done freely, but it is not optional!
- Get on with Giving God's way – for failure to do that implies grace that may be in vain and salvation that may be illusion.