

**2 Corinthians 9:1-11 / "Why Give?"**  
**A Biblical View on Giving, Stewardship.**

***Giving Mirrors an Attitude of the Heart (vv. 1-2)***

- Paul said, the Corinthians were *ready* to give. They had an *eagerness* to offer financial help to the Macedonians.

- The desire to reach out to others is intrinsic to the new life God places in those who follow Him.

1 John 4:19-20 "*We love, because He first loved us. If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.*"

***Giving is an Action of the Will (vv. 3-5)***

- As the time for collecting the offering came near, Paul made preparations so there would be "*a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness.*"

- A reason can always be found not to give. Some are valid, some are not, and many are self-serving.

- Giving is an act of the will that puts others ahead of self.

***Giving Reflects Trust in God, or a Lack Thereof (vv. 6, 8-10)***

- Giving is not an emotional, religious, tax, or financial issue. It is a spiritual matter.

- It reflects the level of trust a person has in God.

v. 6 "*sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*"

- Giving demonstrates a person's willingness to trust God to provide for him or her, it is a spiritual issue.

v. 8 "*God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.*"

***Giving is a Willing and Delightful Decision of the Conscience, not an Obligation (v. 7)***

- New Testament giving is not tithing. Tithing is a requirement of The Law.

- A person does not have to give. It is an offering each person chooses to give, not because he or she has to or has been coerced into.

- Giving is intended to be a *delightful* activity.

***Giving Demonstrates an Understanding of the Concept of "Pass-Through" (vv. 8-11)***

- Christ-followers need to learn to live by God's economy, not that of this world.

- Part of His economy is the recognition that it is God's responsibility to provide for His own.

- We work, but He provided the ability and opportunity. What we have is not the result of our efforts, but His provision.

- His provision meets the need of the disciple **and** is the means for meeting the needs of others. In so doing, this "*produc[es] thanksgiving to God.*"

- Giving is an area where the Gospel message can be demonstrated.

**Closing:**

1. Everything in the life of a Christian is a means for knowing God and expressing Him to others, including finances.

2. Often finances become the area that reveals the true approach a person has to life.

3. Does the way you approach giving cause you to know the Lord better, or attest to your efforts to provide for yourself?