

Scripture: Ten Commandments & 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:5-15
Singing: 404:1, 2, 5 – 329:2 – 283:1-3 – 113:1, 2 – 254:-4-5 – 420:5

Let's Study Philippians (34)

Intro: Paul's worship about God's generosity: 2 Cor. 9:15

CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY

I. It blesses the needy II. It enriches the givers III. It is well pleasing to God

I. CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY BLESSES THE NEEDY

A. Paul was also a needy man who appreciated the gifts of love (14-16)

1. Being content is not contradictory to being needy

2. Therefore he felt deeply thankful for Philippians' ministry work

a. seems vs. 14-16 are added to avoid misinterpretation

b. 2 Cor. 8:1-5 supplements the picture of this church family

B. What a beautiful grace is this *Christian generosity*!

1. It is God's grace flowing through His people's fellowship in action

2. Though Christian generosity is a grace of God, it needs cultivation

a. 2 Cor. 8:6-7; 10-11

II. CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY ENRICHES THE GIVERS

A. Christian giving is a fruit that enriched the receivers (vs. 18)

B. Yet Christian giving is also a fruit that enriches the givers (vs. 15-17)

1. Paul adopted some *business terms* in his writing

2. Though to our 'grace alone' mindset Paul's teaching sounds shocking yet is fully Biblical:

a. Matt. 6:19-21 - Matt. 5:7 – Prov. 11:15 – 19:17 – Hebrews 6:10

b. Matt. 25:31-46 Jesus allows us a peek into God's ledger

3. 2 Cor. 5:10 informs us about God's accounting day

III. CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY IS WELL PLEASING TO GOD

A. God reveals He either grieved (Eph. 4:30) or pleased with His children: vs 18

B. What an encouraging truth: *God is delighted with efforts to do good works!*

1. Romans 12:1: *to present your body as a living sacrifice is acceptable to Him*
2. Rom 14:18: *serving Christ in Christian charity is well-pleasing*
3. 1 Tim. 2:1-3: *praying for each other is well pleasing in sight of God*
4. 1 Peter 2:20: *to suffer when you do well and take it patiently delights Him*
5. Col. 3:20: *obeying your parents is well pleasing to the Lord.*

C. What about Isaiah 64:6: *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags?*

1. this applies to *seeking justification before God on basis of your works*

2. But though good works have no value in the *court of justification*, they do have value in the *court of sanctification*

In the court of justification, good works are nothing worth,
but in the court of sanctification, they are jewels and ornaments.

(Richard Sibbes)

Ponder: What are you taking along from this portion of Scripture?