Church With A Future – Part 2

Tony Mauck · 2 Corinthians 8

INTRODUCTION

- New Testament giving is a joyful response to God, and it's an attitude more than an act.
- We are admonished in Romans 12 and verse 1 to be living sacrifices.
- All that we give should be reflected by this joy in our hearts.

1 Some Gifts May Be Greater Than Money

- Some of the gifts that will be required of us in this generation may be gifts greater than money.
- But God needs more from us than just our money.
- Sometimes local churches struggle not because the contribution isn't what it should be, but because a sufficient amount of time is not being sacrificed.
- Sometimes it's a sacrifice of our time and our energy and our talents that the local church needs.

2 Proper Giving Issues From the Knowledge of Grace

2 Corinthians 8:7–9; 2 Corinthians 8:10–12

- Just as you abound in everything in faith and utterance and knowledge in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also.
- I'm appealing to you from a greater standpoint of motivation, and that is that you prove the sincerity of your love.
- For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, that you, through his poverty, might become rich.
- Why should you be involved in this gracious work of giving? Because you are the recipient of the greatest grace of all.
- How can you get that zeal back? Paul has told us how. In 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. It comes down to an appreciation of grace.

3 Be Motivated by Grace, Not Guilt

2 Corinthians 9:1; Acts 20:35

- Be motivated by grace, not guilt.
- Doesn't mention the word money, but I'll tell you what he mentions over ten times. The word grace.
- He is emphasizing the grace of God, not the mammon, not the material things of this world. But using what God has given us because of his grace.
- So it's not about guilt as it is about grace.
- It is more blessed to give than to receive.

4 A Church That Doesn’t Know Grace Has No Future

Romans 12:16–21

- A church that doesn’t know grace has no future. That’s why this sermon is called a church with a future.
- The depth of our knowledge about grace has everything to do with how we regard and treat other people.
- God has treated you far better than you deserve.
- How gracious are you in your relationships in your home with your spouse?

5 Our Knowledge of Grace, That’s What It Affects

- How are we going to teach people about the grace of God unless we demonstrate the grace of God to them?
- Grace determines the nature of the service that we render.
- If we’re struggling to pray outside of these assemblies, there’s something amiss in our perceptions of grace.
- Our knowledge of grace is going to affect how we do with the problem of temptation.
- It will affect our commitment to the Lord’s people.

THE CHALLENGE

So let’s reflect as a result of these lessons about our future. Our future will only be as good as our appreciation of grace and the modeling of it in our lives.

MY NOTES