

Tuesday Night Teaching

Bible Study

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

MAY 22, 2018

PRINCIPLES OF PROSPERITY

“PRINCIPLES OF GIVING II”

Principle of Giving

II Corinthians 9:5-7

II Corinthians

- ▶ Paul responding to Church Issues
 - ▶ Defense of His Ministry - He was unimpressive and unqualified to be an apostle
- ▶ Opposition from false teachers
- ▶ Founded a Church with Aquilla and Priscilla (they were all tent makers)

II Corinthians

- ▶ Paul writes this letter from Macedonia (Bulgaria, Serbia, Kosovo, Albania)
 - ▶ Written in late A.D. 56
 - ▶ Highlights the generosity of the Macedonians
 - ▶ Text is part of the larger discourse on the collection of the saints (Chapters 8 -10)
- ▶ Paul is responding to a disgruntle church reluctant in their giving

II Corinthians 9:5

- ▶ The Corinthian Church has a problem with preparing the gift for the ministry and to the mother Jerusalem Church.
- ▶ This gift had been “already promised” or “previously pledged” (προεπηγγελμένην), not by him to those in Jerusalem, but by the Corinthians to him.

Principle of Giving - Generosity

- ▶ Eulogia - εὐλογία, good speaking, praise; *then*, thanksgiving (*from which our “eulogy.”*)
 - ▶ *blessing; praise*
- ▶ Blessing is a most important concept in the OT and Judaism. The Hebrew group *brk*, translated by *eulogéō* etc. in the LXX, denotes blessing, being blessed, and the individual blessings.

Bullinger, E. W. (1908). *A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament* (Fifth Edition, Revised, p. 104). London: Longmans, Green, & Co.

(2012). *The Lexham Analytical Lexicon of the Septuagint*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (p. 275). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

Principle of Giving - Generosity

- ▶ When we give we are speaking well of God.
- ▶ We praise God and worship when we give. It is a recognition that all things come from God.

Grudging Obligation

- ▶ Etymologically it means “(a craving) to have more” (πλεὸν ἔχειν), and thus refers to self-seeking acquisitiveness or ruthless greed
- ▶ πλεονεξία, (pleonexia) having more; the will to have more, (e.g. a larger portion, advantage, superiority.) *In plural*, covetous thoughts, **plans of fraud and extortion.**

Harris, M. J. (2005). *The Second Epistle to the Corinthians: a commentary on the Greek text* (p. 629). Grand Rapids, MI; Milton Keynes, UK: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co.; Paternoster Press.

Bullinger, E. W. (1908). *A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament* (Fifth Edition, Revised, p. 193). London: Longmans, Green, & Co.

Grudging Obligation

When we don't give we are extorting that which belongs to God!

Grace Giving

- ▶ The point is that the gift, as a gift of love and not of calculation, should be a blessing.

Sowing Sparingly

- ▶ Sow - to scatter seed
- ▶ Sparingly -, *i.e.* frugally, not bountifully *abstemiously, i.e. stingily:—sparingly.*

Bullinger, E. W. (1908). *A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament* (Fifth Edition, Revised, p. 723). London: Longmans, Green, & Co.

Strong, J. (2009). *A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible* (Vol. 1, p. 75). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

Betz, H. D. (1985). *2 Corinthians 8 and 9: a commentary on two administrative letters of the Apostle Paul*. (G. W. MacRae, Ed.) (pp. 96–97). Philadelphia: Fortress Press.

Sowing Sparingly

- ▶ Are you a stingy sower (giver)?
- ▶ You can tell those who are givers because the intention manifest in their lives

Bountifully (Generously)

- ▶ Eulogia – sign of gracious kindness

Reap

- ▶ Reap - (*from* θέρος, summer, harvest-time); to mow and reap, and gather in the harvest.
- ▶ Literally “to reap,” b. figuratively “to reap a harvest” (cf. a moral action and its consequences either ethically or eschatologically in the LXX and Philo).

Reap

Paul's point is the correspondence between the quantity of seed sown and the quantity of the harvest. He is implying that a meager contribution from the Corinthians would produce some harvest, but his desire and aim was for a sizable gift that would produce a correspondingly substantial harvest of benefits for both givers and recipients.

Reap

- ▶ Paul does not pass this principle off as a shrewd investment strategy on how to reap greater material blessings by giving a portion of it to others. If one gives in hopes of attaining greater material prosperity, then one will harvest only spiritual poverty. Paul makes clear in what follows that God rewards generosity with material abundance to make it possible for people to be even more generous.

Reap

- ▶ This is why the attitude, posture and motivation matters. A farmer can sow seed and the condition or environment is not conducive to a harvest.

Reap

- ▶ This reference to the quantitative aspect of giving did not mean that Paul had surrendered his primary interest in the qualitative. He has already hinted that attitude is more important than the actual amount given (8:11–12).

Reap

- ▶ In God's eyes an eager desire to give that is translated into actual giving is one of the criteria that determines the acceptability of a gift; the other criterion is that the size of the gift should accord with one's resources, however meager or substantial they may be.

Principles of Giving

- ▶ The general thought, “As you have sown, so you shall reap” was a commonplace in contemporary morality, as also in the Jewish wisdom tradition. “Those who have sown well, also reap well”.

Principles of Giving

- ▶ Proverbs 11:24 - There is *one* who scatters, yet increases more; And there is *one* who withholds more than is right, But it *leads* to poverty. NKJV
- ▶ Proverbs 11:24-25 – One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. NIV

Biblical Attitudes Toward Wealth

- ▶ Prosperity – The result of divine generosity, while wealth was thought to be obtained by injustice, violence, fraud, and selfishness.
- ▶ A gift of blessing is given in response to blessings received, while greed represents a failure to respond in kind, owing to one's failure to receive anything as a gift.

Biblical Attitudes Toward Wealth

- ▶ Greed is identical with ingratitude, and signifies stubbornness and immobility, in contrast to the whole chain of activities set in motion by the gift of blessing: receiving, enjoying, and giving.

Principles of Giving

- ▶ Giving is an indicator of growth in the new life!
- ▶ God is not occupied with the amount of the gift, but the motive that lies behind it!
- ▶ The gift does not make God rich!

Principles of Giving

- ▶ The gift makes me spiritually richer because everything that I have belongs to God!
- ▶ I give because I love God and want to give!