

INTRODUCTION

- * Last Sunday, we saw how afflictions reveal our faith. Within the context of that theme, Paul refers to the testimony of the believers in Macedonia who gave great evidence of their faith – in the midst of their affliction – by giving to the needs of the saints in Judea (cf. Romans 15:25-26).
- * This abundant giving was founded on the fact that they had first given of themselves to the Lord. They understood that everything that they owned was actually under His stewardship and for His glory. As we will continue to examine today, they gave out of their great devotion for what God had done for them.
- * Hence, the Priority of Giving is giving yourself first.
- * Today, we pick up on the theme of giving by considering the Principles, and Promises, of Giving that Paul gives in chapters 8 and 9.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE PRINCIPLES OF GIVING**

- A. We Are To Give P** _____ (cf. 8:1,5,9)
- B. We Are To Give L** _____ (cf. 8:2-3; 9:6; Mark 12:41-44; Proverbs 11:25; 22:9; James 1:5)
- C. We Are To Give F** _____ (cf. 8:10; 9:3-5; Luke 16:10)
- D. We Are To Give W** _____ (cf. 8:10-12; 9:2; Mark 14:8)
- E. We Are To Give P** _____ (cf. 8:12; 9:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; Matthew 6:19-21)
- F. We Are To Give C** _____ (cf. 9:5-7; 1 Peter 4:9)

II. THE PROMISES OF GIVING

- A. You Will Be B** _____ (cf. 9:6-11; Galatians 6:7-10; Proverbs 3:9-10; 19:17; 28:27)
- B. God Will Be G** _____ (cf. 9:11-15; Matthew 5:16; John 15:8; 1 Corinthians 10:31)

INTROSPECTION

- * What is the basis of your giving? Have you given yourself?
- * Are you a cheerful giver, or a begrudging giver?
- * Is the glory of God truly your primary motivation?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think ... and therefore act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * Read Exodus 35:5-29; 36:4-6. How do these passages apply to our discussion of giving?
- * Malachi 3:6-12. How does this passage apply to our discussion of giving?