

THE GOSPEL FOR EVERYDAY CHRISTIAN LIVING

PART FIVE

Paul David Tripp: We must preach the gospel to ourselves so that we make it a daily practice to 1) gaze on the beauty of Christ, 2) remember who we are as a child of God, 3) rest in his power and provision, and then 4) act in reliance upon him.

7) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO PRACTICE GENEROSITY.

Randy Alcorn: It's increasingly common for Christians to ask each other the tough questions: "How are you doing in your marriage?" "How much time have you been spending in the Word?" "How's your sexual purity?" "Have you been sharing your faith?" But how often do we ask, "Have you been robbing God?" or "Are you winning the battle against materialism?" or "How much are you giving to the Lord?... Statistics clearly indicate that young adults in the church give a much lower percentage of their income.

John MacArthur: Lovers of money usually hate to give it to others, no matter how much those people might need it. Money lovers would rather spend all they have on themselves to meet their own desires. And if they give any money at all it is usually a small amount given with the intent of bringing them some honor.

- ❖ **2 Corinthians 8:1-9, [1]** We want you to know, brothers about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, **[2] for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.**

Wells rightly stated, "You do not have to be rich to be generous. If he has the spirit of true generosity, a pauper can give like a prince."

- ❖ **[3]** For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, **[4]** begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— **[5]** and this, not as we expected, but they ver. I gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. **[6]** Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. **[7]** But as you excel in everything—in faith, in

speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. [8] I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. [9] **For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor [THE PRINCE OF GLORY BECAME THE PRINCE OF POVERTY], so that you by his poverty might become rich [GOSPEL].**

- ❖ Though Jesus was gloriously rich in heaven, for our sake, He became physically poor on earth, taking the form of a servant, so that through His poverty we might become spiritually rich.

He did not even own a bed,
He had no place to lay His head;
A cattle stall, His crib at birth;
He had no bank account on earth.
He laid the wealth of Heaven down
For earthly rags, and thorny crown.
He passed the praise of angels by,
And came where men cried “Crucify!”
He left a throne for you and me
And bore our sins upon a tree.
So strong His claim, so clear His call,
How dare I give Him less than all?

- Barbara C. Ryber

From *Does God Need Your Money?* I read of a wonderful incident which greatly moved my heart. John Wanamaker (1838-1922), the founder of the famous Philadelphia department store that bears his name, was a devoted Christian. A poor city boy from Philadelphia, he was forced to drop out of school at the age of fourteen, even though he was an excellent student and had an aptitude for higher learning. At first he was an errand boy for a bookstore and later in his life became a wealthy philanthropist. Once on a trip to China to observe Christian mission work there, he came across a small village where a group of Christians had begun constructing a church building but lacked money to complete it. In a nearby field he noticed the strange sight of a boy yoked together with an ox as they together pulled a plow held by his father. Mr. Wanamaker’s guide explained that the boy had

promised his father, “If you will sell one of the oxen and give the money for the construction of the church building, I will take the oxen’s place pulling the plow.” Mr. Wanamaker is said to have fallen to his knees and said, “*Lord, let me be hitched to a plow that I may know the joy of sacrificial giving.*”

Note: Giving must be practiced primarily to the local church and but not end there. We must give also to others (a person on the street, a needy believer/Christian worker...etc)

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