

Give Cheerfully



Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

The bills are piling up. It seems like the ends that need to be met are miles apart. Whether it be at home or at church, it just seems that there never is enough to go around.

When the storms of this life start raging, it can be difficult to display a cheerful attitude when it comes to deciding what we are going to return to God. Instead of cheerfully contributing in response to Christ's love, oftentimes we grudgingly give compelled by deficits.

Grudgingly giving is exactly what the Apostle Paul was warning against. He was presenting the Corinthian Christians an opportunity to support the struggling church in Jerusalem. But as he presents this opportunity, he wants to ensure that the Corinthians not give simply because he, Paul, told them to. He doesn't want them to give because God's kingdom will come to a grinding halt if they don't.

The fact is that God doesn't need our money. The Word will endure even if we don't open our wallets. Our God is the creator of the universe. He owns it all. Everything is his—just look at Psalm 50. He doesn't need us.

If we don't give, it's not God's kingdom that falls apart. It's not God that misses out on the blessing. When we don't give, we are the ones who miss out on the blessing. Motivated by what Christ has done for us, Paul presents us with the opportunity to be cheerful givers. We have reason to be joyful. We have reason to celebrate. We have a Savior who has paid the ultimate price to earn our salvation. With the bliss and joy of life eternal in our sights, we have reason to celebrate and to return joyful, cheerful gifts to our Lord.