

## REACHING THE WORLD WITH THE WORD

**TEXT:** 2 Cor. 11:7-9; Philippians 4:10-19

**THESIS:** To reveal the promise of God for the sacrificial giving of God's people to missions.

**INTRO.:** A. **What is "Missions"?** *Missions is the work of God, thru the people of God, to get the Word of God to people in need of God.*

B. **How are missions and missionaries supported?** (3 basic ways)

1. Individual people support individual missionaries and projects. (through the church)
2. Churches support missionaries and projects through their general budget.
3. Churches support missionaries and mission projects thru Faith Promise of Grace Giving.

C. All three of these plans support the work of God to get the Word of God to people in need of God, but there are specific benefits and problems with each plan. 1. *The individual dies or can no longer support the missionary.* 2. *The church budget may hinder further missions giving if it is locked in to a specific amount.* 3. *Faith Promise sometimes causes the church budget from being supported while the missions budget prospers.* Let's see if we can examine the Faith Promise or Grace Giving method of Missions support...

### I. MISSIONS GIVING IS FRUITFUL GIVING: vv.10-17

A. Paul the Missionary Was Supported by Churches:

1. He didn't get support from the stingy saints at Corinth & took them to task for their lack, and then apologized for their spiritual inferiority.

**2 Cor 11:7-9** *Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely? 8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service. 9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.*

2. Paul's motivation was not to receive blessings (though w/out support he could not plant churches), but to see the saints who sacrificed for him, growing.
3. In v.17 he stresses that the "fruit" he desired was not for him, but for those who gave.

**ILLUS.:** Many believers see giving as a chore and chalk it the "loss" column. Paul saw giving as a blessing and something which provided "fruit" and blessing to the giver. The grace-giving of the Philippian believers enabled Paul to "Reach the World with the Word" and at the same time, provide blessing and fruit to the givers.

B. Paul the Missionary Spoke of the Benefits of Giving: *"I desire fruit..."*

1. He spoke of *"fruit that may abound to your account"* suggesting that the benefits may not all be counted in this life, but that God is keeping records for future rewards.

**ILLUS.:** One day while pastoring in Md. We received a bank statement with a balance of over \$1 million! Talk about a pleasant surprise! I had been credited with instant wealth. I went to the bank knowing it was an error (while hoping it wasn't), secretly hoping that they would tell me the money was mine! (They didn't!)

Imagine standing at the J.S. of Christ and finding out your account has been credited with everything you have ever given to the Lord's work, plus interest over all the years you have been saved! And then being told by the Lord that there is no "accounting error" – the *"fruit"* really belongs to you!!!!

2. As the Philippians gave support to Paul, souls were won to Christ and they shared in that spiritual fruit. As then – so now!
3. The issue then becomes HOW MUCH FRUIT DO YOU AND YOUR CHURCH DESIRE?!
4. Paul thanked those believers for their generosity even though he said his need were more than supplied. *"But I have all and about: I am full..." v.18*

### II. MISSIONS GIVING IS BIBLICAL GIVING:

A. What Missions Giving is Not:

1. It is NOT God's tithe: that automatically belongs to Him.

**Heb. 7:8** *And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.*

2. It is NOT your offering (above the tithe) – that is when you giving what is required (God calls it robbery not to give the tithe **and offering** to Him!).
3. It is NOT a pledge where you sign your name and if you fail to deliver, someone calls you to remind you of your failure.
4. It is NOT "robbing Peter to pay Paul", i.e., it is not taking money from your regular Giving in tithes and offerings to support the church, work and workers.

B. What Missions Giving IS:

1. It is a love gift that reflects your love for the Savior and for souls.
2. It is a "freewill offering" or specified gift over and above your tithe.
3. It is "love money", not "feel good money."

**2 Cor 8:8** *I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.*

4. Missions giving is obedient money.
5. Missions giving is a commitment between you and the Lord – no one else.

**2 Cor 8:10-11** *And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago. 11 Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.*

### III. MISSIONS GIVING IS SACRIFICIAL GIVING:

A. Missions Giving is Based on Faith:

1. Everything in the Christian life is ultimately based on the faith principle.
2. We believe God created everything – by faith – we weren't there!
3. We are saved by faith – believing what God said happened at Calvary.
4. We walk by faith, i.e., we live each day trusting God to supply our needs.
5. We serve the Lord by faith, i.e., we trust our **"labour is not in vain in the Lord."**

B. Missions Giving is Living by Faith:

1. It is not what YOU are going to do, but what you will allow God to do thru you!
2. It is not determined on the basis of what you KNOW you can do, but on what you believe the Lord wants to do through you.

**Luke 6:38** *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

3. Check out the amazing promise (check out the amazing promise in v.19) often mis-Applied and divorced from its context!

**CONCL.:** **"REACHING THE WORLD WITH THE WORD"** costs money and God's people are the only ones God can count on to finance the Great Commission! What will YOU do in this part of His vineyard? The choice is between you and the Lord of the Harvest.

# STEWARDING THE GREAT COMMISSION

**THE ISSUE IS NOT HOW FAT IS YOUR WALLET, BUT HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD!**

A little from many takes care of the need.

**With just 50 members participating:**

- a. \$1 per person per week (a cup of coffee) = \$2600/yr.
- b. \$5 per person per wk. (daily soda) = \$13,000/yr.
- c. \$7 per person per wk. (daily sandwich) = \$18,200/yr.
- d. \$10 per person per wk. (McDonalds meal) = \$26,000/yr
- e. \$15 per person per week (weekly haircut or hairdo) = \$39,000/year
- f. \$20 per person per week (manicure) = \$52,000/year

Of course not everyone will give the same amount. So, if 5 give \$7, and 10 give \$10, and 10 give \$12.50, and 10 give \$20 and 5 give \$25, and 2 give \$50, and 1 gives \$70 – the total from just 43 people would be \$755/wk or **\$39,260/year**.

Of course if 100 people participate this figure could equal approx. **\$80,000! for Missions!**