



Introduction to 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Sunday, December 10, 2017 Pastor Don Denyes

Among the many things attributed to God in the Bible, generosity is one of those that is little discussed. We'll talk about how God is holy (and our need to be holy). We'll talk about God being gracious and merciful (and how we need to be gracious and merciful). We'll even talk about more abstract things like His providence or His simplicity. But one of the most common things attributed to God in the Bible is something that is also often overlooked: His generosity.

Our God is a generous God. In fact, the verb "give" is associated with God more than any other verb in the Bible. More than 1,000 times, God is described as the one who gives. Compared to other common verbs attributed to God: God is said to love just over 700 times, and He is said to judge just under 200 times. That is amazing! God is described as one who gives more than He is described as anything else. It would be prudent of us to consider that and to respond in gratitude and to emulate His generosity in the lives of people around us.

Context

In 2 Corinthians 9, Paul is concerned that the Corinthians have not contributed to the needs of the Jerusalem church the way that other churches have. But it's not just about dollars and cents (or denarii or whatever). For Paul, the lack of generosity of the part of the people of Corinth is a demonstration of a lack of faith. Not that God would necessarily increase their fortune if they gave, but faith that as God Himself is generous, so too should the righteous people who follow Him be. As we think about the Christmas season, it would be good of us to consider God's own generosity towards us, not for the purpose of spending more money on material gifts, but consider His generosity as a core tenet of His being and emulate that in any way we can.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“The Giving God”

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift

- 1) God gives

- 2) God gives by grace

- 3) God deserves our gratitude

We are never more like God than when we are giving generously, motivated by His grace.

Discuss

- 1) Describe a time when you were the recipient of someone else's generosity. What was your response? Looking back, is there anything you would change about the way you responded?
- 2) How would you define gratitude? (Not just the dictionary definition, but including concrete examples as well)
- 3) Generosity is not typically an attribute of God that is often discussed or talked about. Yet, God, as is demonstrated time and time again throughout the Scriptures, is a generous God. When you think about God's generosity (in Scripture and in your life), what do you typically think of?
- 4) Re-read v. 13. How does our generosity "flow from" or "accompany" our confession of the gospel? If we're not generous, what does that reveal about our confession of the gospel?
- 5) How can we become more generous people (not only with our money, but also with our time, and with the physical and mental abilities (talent) that God has given us?