

THE BLESSEDNESS OF GIVING

Text: Acts 20:35

- Paul's final instructions about giving:

I. THE _____ OF GIVING

- The Lord Jesus Himself:

1. He gave away His _____ so He might become our Savior (2 Cor. 8:9).
2. He gave His _____ to serving others (Acts 10:38).
3. He gave His _____ upon the cross and died for our sins (Philip. 2:7-8).
4. He offers to give _____ to you (John 4:10).

II. THE _____ TO GIVING

- _____, which is blessed.
- But giving is even "more blessed" for at least 3 reasons:

1. The right kind of giving brings even more _____ to the giver than to the receiver.
2. Those who give receive a blessed _____ of heart.
3. While those who receive are blessed by the gift, those who give are blessed by _____ (2 Cor. 9:10-11).
 - Material blessings—"minister bread for your food"
 - _____ blessings—"multiply your seed sown"
 - Multifaceted blessings—"increase the fruits of your righteousness"
 - Magnanimous blessings—"being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness"
 - _____ blessings—"which causeth through us thanksgiving to God"

III. THE _____ OF GIVING

- Paul wasn't recommending a one-time gift but a _____ of looking out for others.
 - "Laboring, support" = continuous actions
- Application: If God blesses the work of your hands by giving you a surplus, the reason is not so you could be _____ with it but so you can be generous to others (Eph. 4:28, 1 Tim. 6:17-18).

IV. THE _____ OF GIVING

- "Supporting the weak" = meeting the material needs of those _____ to provide for themselves.

- Three foci for the charitable giving of believers:

1. We should give to those who have needs in our _____.

- The example and practice of the Spirit-filled Jerusalem church (Acts 2:44-45).
- Balance: Not giving to wants but giving out of our abundance to provide an _____ for those who lack (2 Cor. 8:13-14).
- Principle: Don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing so you will receive a full _____ in heaven.

2. We should give to the relief of poor _____ in impoverished places in the world.

- Much New Testament teaching on giving was delivered in the context of an offering Paul was taking for the relief of poor saints in _____, a primary focus of giving for Gentile churches.
- God is pleased and generous with those who are generous with the poor and needy (Ps. 41:1, Prov. 14:21, 19:17, 28:27, 11:24-25).

3. We should give to the poor in general as God shows us opportunity (Gal. 6:10).

- Our giving priorities are first the _____, then all _____.

CONCLUSION

- Today, we have an opportunity to practice the blessedness of giving in our sacrificial offering for Ukraine.
- This Christmas, let's look for ways to prioritize _____ over receiving, allowing God to guide our generosity.