

Legacy Living and Grace Giving

This is the season of generosity!

- ☐ It is a **Thanks – GIVING** week.
- ☐ **Christmas** is right around the corner... you are already thinking about **the GIVING of your Christmas – GIFTS**.

At Christian Life, it is in this season of generosity that I like to pause for **3** out of the other **52 Sundays** in the year and challenge us to come together in our **GIVING** impact for eternity!

I am talking about our Legacy Offering: seasonal offering at CL that we do once a year that enables us as a church to Impact our world for eternity.

- ☐ This is an offering that is above your weekly or monthly routine of giving your tithes.
- ☐ It is **special**, it is **sacrificial**, and it is **significant**.

We call it a *Legacy Offering* because.... a **Legacy is what lasts!**

- ☐ **Legacy is what *people remember* when you are gone.**
- ☐ More than that.... In the Kingdom, our **Legacy is what *God remembers* when we're gone.**

Hebrews 6:10 NIV *God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.*

Legacy Living and the Grace of Giving

Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV *"He has made everything beautiful in its time (season). He has also set eternity in the human heart..."*

The Grace of Giving

- 1) Is the giving of a special yearly offering scriptural?
- 2) How can I give away money when things are so tight?

A scriptural foundation for a Legacy Offering is found in 2 Corinthians 8 & 9.

- ☐ Paul is pulling the church together and challenges them to join in with the other churches in Macedonia to finish the work!

2 Corinthians 8:1 NIV *And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to **know about the grace** that God has given the Macedonian churches.*

8:2 *In the midst of a very severe trial, their **overflowing joy** and their extreme poverty **welled up in rich generosity**.*

8:3 *For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, **4** they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.*

8:5 *And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.*

8:6 *So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this **act of grace** on your part.*

8:7 *But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this **grace of giving**.*

8:8 *I am **not commanding you**, (I love this) but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others.*

8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **though he was rich**, yet for **your sake he became poor**, so that you through his poverty **might become rich**.

8:10-12 And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. **11** Now finish the work, so that your eager **willingness** to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. **12** For if the **willingness is there**, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

God has called us to live a grace-filled life, and it manifests in your giving also! It's the want to not the have to.

If there is anything you hear today that makes you feel guilty or shamed, you are hearing it wrong!

Guilt and Shame... that is the devils work! It's my job to get the guilt and the shame off of you, not put it back on you!

Five Elements of Grace-Filled Giving:

1) GRACE-GIVERS GIVE GENEROUSLY, NOT SPARINGLY.

2 Cor. 9:6 NIV Remember this: *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

2) GRACE-GIVERS GIVE INTENTIONALLY, NOT RANDOMLY.

2 Cor 9:7 NIV 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**.

Where the Legacy Offering is going in 2024:

- ☐ CL Local Missions
- ☐ CL National/ Global Missions
- ☐ CL Next Generation
- ☐ CL People/ Projects

3) GRACE-GIVERS GIVE WILLINGLY NOT RELUCTANTLY.

9:7 "... not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

If you will learn how to give willingly and not reluctantly, you will learn to love this version of you better than the one that gives out of guilt.

4) GRACE-GIVERS GIVE JOYFULLY, NOT SORROWFULLY.

9:7 "... not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Cheerful givers are grace givers!

5) GRACE-Givers Give Thankfully, Not Regretfully.

9:10-12 Now he who **supplies seed to the sower** and bread for food **will also supply and increase** your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. **GIFT OF GRACE 11** You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us **your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God**. **GRACE 12** This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also **overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God**. **GRACE GIVING**

Grace-giving happens when thanksgiving wells up and overflows out of your life into the life of others.

Grace-Givers refuse to live in regret!

My (Pastor Ron's) prayer is this:

- 1) God will supply seed for you to sow!
- 2) And not only supply it but miraculously INCREASE it!
- 3) That God will enlarge the HARVEST that comes from the offering you are about to sow!
- 4) Your offering will awaken an awareness of how wonderful your eternal investment is to God.
- 5) Together our generosity will result in an overflowing thanksgiving to our God for what He has done!