Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you; 2 for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority. 3 Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, you may be ready; 4 lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting. 5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you a head of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation. 6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

I. God allows us the glorious privilege of sharing in kingdom work

A. With every one of us is placed a sacred trust

1. The whole of our life is a stewardship from God
   a. Stewardship explained
   b. Stewardship expected

2. The way we practice our stewardship is important
   a. Encouraged to practice generous stewardship
   b. Encouraged to practice faithful stewardship
   c. Encouraged to practice willing stewardship

3. The work accomplished through our stewardship is phenomenal
   a. Reveals God’s work in us
   b. Extends God’s work across the earth

B. Reasons we want to give attention to biblical stewardship

1. In acknowledgement of God’s ownership of all things
2. In appreciation of God’s wonderful provision
3. In awareness of God’s amazing grace
4. In obedience to God’s command
5. In understanding of God’s method for funding His work