

ONE THING MORE...

Sermon-Based Study Guide
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
2nd Corinthians 8 & 9 | November 24, 2019
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I. Introduction to this Study

This week we conclude our series on the topic of gratitude, One Thing More. We have engaged our problem with gratitude, God's plan and purpose for gratitude, and the power of gratitude.

This week we conclude our series thinking about our practice of gratitude.

II. Connecting with One Another

How do you think we should practice gratitude? Think of as many ways as you can.

III. Study the Text

a. Read 2nd Corinthians 8.1-7.

In his letter, the Apostle Paul engages the Corinthians' practice of gratitude by encouraging them to remain committed to their financial pledge of helping the Jerusalem church. And yet, he does so very delicately, never directly using any of the Greek words for "money."

Why do you think he does so?

Have you ever been in a similarly delicate situation around money? How did you handle it? Why?

b. Look again at verses 1-7. What words are used as a stand in for money?

Why do you think Paul uses such these words instead of just saying what he means?

How do they connect with our series on gratitude?

c. How are the Macedonians great examples of generosity?

d. Read 2nd Corinthians 8.8-15.

Why do you think Paul pauses his discussion of giving to engage the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?

e. How is Jesus the perfect example of sacrificial giving?

f. In verse 12, Paul writes, "For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have."

What do you think he means?

g. In verse 15, Paul quotes from Exodus 16.18, recalling God's gift of manna in the wilderness. Why do you think he does so?

h. Read 2nd Corinthians 8.16-24.

Why do you think Paul finds it important to send several others along with Titus?



What kind of precautions are necessary today in finances and fundraising?

- i. Read 2nd Corinthians 9.1-5.

What concerns does Paul have in collecting this gift? Try to find as many as you can.

Why do you think he's concerned about such things?

- j. Read 2nd Corinthians 9.6-15.

How is the Apostle Paul trying to shift the Corinthians' perspective from something they "have to do" to something they "get to do"?

How is he trying to give them a new, bigger way of seeing things?

- k. It's well known that Jesus talked about money more than any other topic.

Consider these statistics:

- The Bible has 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 on faith, but more than 2,000 on money and possessions
- Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions
- One out of every ten verses in the Gospels speak directly about money

What do you think of these stats?

How would you summarize Jesus' teaching on money and possessions?

- l. Why do you think Paul concludes this section by writing "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"?

- m. How are you held back from practicing gratitude like the Macedonians?

Where could God be calling you to be an increasingly generous and cheerful giver?

IV. Pray

- a. Ask God to reveal to you any obstacles in your heart that keep you from generous and cheerful giving,
- b. Pray that the leaders of Good Shepherd would be wise in allocating our resources as we invite all people to grow into a Christ-centered life in God's family,
- c. Lift up those you know locally or around the world who are in need, that God would supply their needs through His miraculous provision and the giving of the church.

