

# GOD'S GIFT OF GIVING

## #5 GIVING AS THE GRACE OF GOD AT WORK

1 Kings 17:1-16      2 Corinthians 8:1-15, 9:6-8

### 1 THIS ACT OF GRACE: GENTILE GIVING FOR THE JEWISH POOR

A. Series Review: Act.20, Rom.11, Luk.12, 1Tim.6

B. Historical Setting of Paul's Collection for the Poor in Jerusalem

### 2 THE GOSPEL OF GRACIOUS GIVING

A. God's Riches of Grace Model & Empower Our Own Graciousness

10X 2Cor.8:1,4,6,7,9,16,19; 2Cor.9:8,14,15

B. The Gospel of Grace Is God's Giving of Himself to Us, the Poor

**2Cor. 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 by his poverty might become rich.

**Rom. 8:32** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

### 3 THE LOGIC OF GRACIOUS GIVING

A. The Gospel Paradox of the Macedonian Givers Extolled

B. Gracious Giving Is Giving of Ourselves First to God & Then to Others

### 4 THE MEASURE OF GRACIOUS GIVING

A. Keep Your Tithes—But Use It as a True Rule of Thumb—at 23%

**Lev.27:30-33/Num.18:8-32** 1/10 of produce & livestock given to Levites, who would tithe to priests

**Deu.14:22-27** 1/10 of produce & livestock to eaten joyfully at temple, or sold & money used for same

**Deu.14:28-29** every third year 1/10 distributed locally to Levites, aliens, orphans, & widows

B. The Apostolic Mandate: According to Your Means & As You Have Prospered

**2Cor. 8:3** For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord...

**1Co 16:1-2** Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

**2Cor. 9:6-7** The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**Gal 6:6-10** Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

# CONFESSING OUR FAITH

## HEIDELBERG CATECHISM 75, 76

**Q** How are you admonished and assured in the Lord's Supper, that you are a partaker of that one sacrifice of Christ, accomplished on the cross, and of all His benefits?

**A** Thus: That Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat of this broken bread and to drink of this cup in remembrance of Him, adding these promises: first, that His body was offered and broken on the cross for me and His blood shed for me as certainly as I see with my eyes the bread of the Lord broken for me and the cup communicated to me; and further—that He feeds and nourishes my soul to everlasting life with His crucified body and shed blood as assuredly as I receive from the hands of the minister and taste with my mouth the bread and cup of the Lord as certain signs of the body and blood of Christ.

**Q** What is it then to eat the crucified body, and drink the shed blood of Christ?

**A** It is not only to embrace with a believing heart all the sufferings and death of Christ, and thereby to obtain the pardon of sin, and life eternal; but also, besides that, to become more and more united to His sacred body, by the Holy Spirit who dwells both in Christ and in us; so that we, though Christ is in heaven and we on earth, are notwithstanding "Flesh of His flesh, and bone of His bone"; and that we live and are governed forever by one spirit as members of the same body are by one soul.

**Amen.**

**So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."**

John 6:53