

HEAVEN'S LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND

II Cor. 9:1-15

Text - V. 8 "God is able to make all grace abound toward you".

I discussed with you the Great collection for the poor saints at Jerusalem, last Sunday evening. Using II Cor. 8.

Chapter 9 is a follow up. I discovered my interest to pursue the study.

I divided the chapter - Principle to follow in giving 1-6. Promise to fulfill 7-15. Practical Administration 16-24.

Great revival followed Pentecost and lasted about 3 years in Jerusalem Church.

Dispersion followed and Saul persecuted Christians - multitudes left. Jer.

The only way to keep the Jer. Church alive was by outside voluntary donations - collections from churches in Achaia and Macedonia. *Cities of Today - Norfolk - its - more subscribers.*

To add to the poverty, Acts 11:27-30 tells of a great dearth throughout the world. This greatly enhanced the destitution in Jer.

Antioch church took a relief offering and sent it by Paul and Barnabas.

The rules to follow in this offering were plain - it must be voluntary "of a willing mind" - 8:12.

It must be cheerfully done without pressure or compulsion. 9:7.

By way of introducing this chapter -

Paul's confidence in Corinth - V. 1-5.

V. 1 - Paul says not really necessary for him to write the Corinthian Church about completing this offering.

V. 2 - I know of your readiness.

I have, am still bragg on you - He feels a genuineness in his heart - willingness of their minds causes him to boast about them to the Macedonia.

Fact was - they had encouraged other churches about a year ago by willingness.

V. 3 - Paul sent Brethren, urges complete - ready - idea - that the offering be taken and ready to hand over to Paul and the messengers when they come.

V. 4 - Strong possibility that some from Macedonia will come with Paul. If they find that Corinth has not taken an offering, it would make Paul's boast of them empty.

This would put Paul to shame.

V. 5 - Therefore, Paul sent brethren before he and others came - He wants the offering to be ready.

Gives Heaven's Law - tells of supply and demand.

Puts it all in the Spiritual area of truth, at heart of the Christian life.

Gives encouragement to liberality.

I. INESCAPABLE PRINCIPLE - V. 6.

V. 6 - Refers to the law of nature - sowing and reaping. Whatsoever we sow in liberality - we reap - harvest.

Heaven's law of demand.

Gal. 6:8 - Sow to flesh reap corruption - sow to Spirit reap everlasting life.

If you want God's supply, great harvest of grace - show God that you are for it.

How little we sow to the Spirit. Sparingly we sow to the Spirit. How little we pray, meditate upon the Word, how rarely do we witness to others.

Examine your sowing - if your sowing is poverty stricken - no wonder the supply is held up.

Christians made even the church a substitute.

God is able to make all grace abound toward you that you may have all sufficiency in all things and abound unto every good work.

God is able but his doing for you, depends upon your sowing. His supply depends upon your demand.

If some of you were honest - you would say I have lost every bit of desire to sow to the Spirit.

I have no heart or concern for other people.

For practical realities I'm learning to live without God, even though I profess to be a Christian.

You are prepared to settle for the delusion and mockery of a salvation that is not real or genuine, that will land you in a lost eternity.

When you have no desire and no heart for God, when your appetite for the word turns sour,

When you have shown to everybody and to God that you don't really care --

Now God wants to do something about it. Fill the empty basin of your life. Begin to sow.

II. A PRACTICE WHICH IS INEVITABLE - V. 7

V. 7 - A fixed state - to choose before hand. They have already made up their minds. In his heart - purposeth - permanent purpose.

Inevitable result is constant and exuberant giving.

For a cheerful giver God loves.

The giver is hilarious with joy over the privilege of doing so.

He gives gladly, happily, thankfully in Christ. Laughter, song, joy.

Does not take much to discourage some in matter of giving.

Grudgingly - out of sorrow.

Necessity - as if it were like pulling eye-teeth. Looking for excuse not to give.

No reluctance in giving.

III. A PROVISION WHICH IS ENEXHAUSTIBLE - V. 8

Christian life pictured as a fountain - overflow.

V. 8 - God is able.

He is the giver of all things even of the grace of giving.

God is able - present - keeps on being able to make all grace overflow unto you that in all things abounding unto you.

This is your provision for your life from heaven today, right now in your immediate circumstances, a provision inexhaustible - it is all grace - abounding.

Grace describes the disposition and nature of God in His character - revealed in his unchanging - pardoning love.

Grace is never fruitless - always fruitful, beautiful. Expressed supremely on Calvary's cross. Love in action.

God gives grace - He does not do so reluctantly. He opens his hands are open - no limitations.

IV. A PROMISE WHICH IS LIBERAL - V. 9-11

V. 9 - Remaineth forever - deeds of charity go on forever.

V. 10 - That which is sown does not impoverish. It feeds the sower.

Provides seeds for future sowing.

God is able to keep on supplying seed to the sower. If the sower hoards the seed, it does not increase.

But if sown it will supply bread for food will increase and cause to grow.

Man cannot outgive God either in nature, money, or spiritual service.

Promise - not be impoverished by generous giving.

V. 11 - Promise of enrichment. In everyway you will grow richer.

Thomas Fuller once prayed "Lord, please either lighten the load or strengthen my back".

The promise from heaven is He infuses His strength and his power is adequate for the task, and he makes the back to carry the load.

There is never one bundle of affliction that when you unwrap it you will discover sufficient grace.

He does more than supply the want, it makes men praise God for the way you have come under the Gospel of Christ which you confess.

The church glows with a spiritual attraction because every basin is filled up. That is why God gives grace.

The Corinthian Christians need have no fear of being impoverished by a generous gift.

V. A PRAISE WHICH IS LIBERAL - V. 12-15.

V. 12 - Gifts will supply the needs of the saints.

They will be running over with Thanksgiving.

V. 13 - This praise will proof that you really do love God.

V. 14 - Liberality will also generate prayers by others on your behalf.

This prayer may mean more to you.

V. 15 - God's unspeakable gift - no wonder Paul exclaims. His unspeakable gift - is expressive.

This not refer to the offering, primarily it refers to Christ and His redeeming work.

The grace of giving had resulted from the gift of Christ.

Home Life - Jan. 27 - A widow lives alone in a small town in Georgia. In her eighties and nearly blind, she rarely ventures outside her door except when friends come to take her to church. She is feeble and scarcely able to walk alone.

Yet she is as bright and chipper as a cricket. She enjoys visits from her friends, who call often to be cheered by her company. Some bring her food and other gifts. Few visitors leave before they have read to the widow from the Bible which she can no longer see, and joined her in prayer. She is a true "prayer warrior" as she calls herself.

"But I'm not alone" she tells those who worry about her safety. God is here with me, I talk to him daily.

Several years ago she received a letter from the government advising her of the Social Security Benefits she was entitled to following the death of her husband.

"Keep your money" she advised the government. I don't need it. My heavenly Father is watching over me".

Many thought she was foolish - she preferred to claim the promises.