**Gospel-Centered Ministry: Serving In Weakness And Power**

SESSION #7 - November 1st, 2015

**2 CORINTHIANS 8 - Generosity Encouraged**

**2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5**

"Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. Then when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me." - 1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-4

"For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews..." - 1 THESSALONIANS 2:14

"Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong? - JAMES 2:5-7

"For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem." - ROMANS 15:26

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to this faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully." - ROMANS 12:6-8

The Widow's Offering - MARK 12:41-44

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." - MATTHEW 6:19-21

**2 CORINTHIANS 8:6-9**

"I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way - in all your speaking and in all your knowledge - because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you." - 1 CORINTHIANS 1:4-6

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

- HEBREWS 11:6

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to this faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully." - ROMANS 12:6-8

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with action and in truth."

- 1 JOHN 3:16-18

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." - MATTHEW 6:21

"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!" - PHILIPPIANS 2:6-8

**2 CORINTHIANS 8:10-12**

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourself. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it - he will be blessed in what he does." - JAMES 1:22-25

"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." - JOHN 13:17

"As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 'I tell you the truth,' he said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'"

- LUKE 21:1-4

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' 'In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse - the whole nation of you - because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out such blessing that you will not have room enough for it." - MALACHI 3:8-10

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"

- LUKE 16:10-11

**2 CORINTHIANS 8:13-15**

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." - ACTS 2:42-47

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." - LUKE 6:37-38

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done." - PROVERBS 19:17

"For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings." - ROMANS 15:26-27

Manna From Heaven - EXODUS 16:13-36

"And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little." - EXODUS 16:18

"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty." - PHILIPPIANS 4:11-12

The Rich Young Ruler - MATTHEW 19:16-26

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" - ACTS 20:35

**2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-24**

"Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you." - 2 CORINTHIANS 12:14

"Now about your brother Apollos: I strongly urged him to go to you with the brothers. He was quite unwilling to go now, but he will go when he has the opportunity."

- 1 CORINTHIANS 16:12

"I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him." - 2 CORINTHIANS 12:18

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man." - PROVERBS 3:3-4

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody." - ROMANS 12:17

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." - 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8