Faithful to Give #1 “Abound in this Grace Also” 2 Cor. 8:1-9; 9:12-15

**Intro**: 2016 only 3 Sundays left before Advent… “Faithful Theme”

**FAITHFUL** (Jan. 17)

*This year, the LORD is Faithful --- Firm, steady, Reliable. He keeps His Word. We become like the One we worship. We will grow in Faithfulness as we worship the Faithful One. His faithfulness compels our faithfulness.*

*t/s –* In our church life we will be faithful to…

***Attend*** – to bend, to notice… to give full energy and focus.

***Serve*** – contributing to the Body effort

***Share*** – Invest, Invite, Speak the Good News…

**GIVE**

**t/s** – You don’t want me to compromise Bible Truth in order to gain approval of people: (**Amen**) Sinfulness of man; Substitutionary Atonement; Gender and Marriage in Created Order; Sexual Morality; Sanctity of Life --- Preacher, preach the word without compromise!

I thank the Lord that you want me to preach the Word about ***How we Give Money***! Next Sunday, ***Why I Tithe***?

**Today**, lay a foundation… get you thinking about how the Bible teaches us that **Money Means More Than we Think**.

**2 Corinthians 8:1-9; 9:12-15**

**Ill** – I received this video … reminded me of this text.

 Set up – We have funded 29 plants in NA in past 5 years

 ***while giving more to CP than anyone else***

Red 1:8 is our Church planting network (Felix)

Five in Toronto! Pastor **Gelvi Urribarri** (Emmanuel)

**Play**

You do not know about them; but they know you!

“*Deepest thanks for your beautiful church, QSBC*”

 “*No way to fully express our gratitude*”

**t/s** – Hispanic brothers & sis in Toronto Thanking God and Loving Us

 --- connected in the Gospel… reminds me of this text.

**READ 2 Corinthians 8:1-9; 9:12-15** (explain context after vs. 6)

**The Bible Teaches the Church to Talk about Giving Money**.

***Exp*** – Paul calls for intentional, sacrificial, proportional, prayerful, cheerful, abounding Giving! He does not hesitate --- True throughout OT and in teaching of Jesus!

 **2 Cor. 8:7**

***App*** – ***Glorify God through biblical stewardship and generosity***!

 Brothers and sisters around the world giving Thanks!

**Talk about Giving Money using Theological Language.**

***Exp*** – *Grace, Fellowship, Ministry, Worship*… used to describe the Church giving money!

**2 Cor. 8:4** – ***Favor*** = Grace; ***Participation*** = koinonia; ***Support*** = service

 Offering called “Grace” half dozen times! (***Take your time***)

 Not using business terms: revenue, funding, financing

**2 Cor. 9:12** – *Ministry of Service – Service you perform* –

 *Leitourgias* – Liturgy = priestly service in Temple.

 Special ***Worship Word*** used seldom in NT

 Zacharias in Temple (Luke 1)

Jesus our High Priest (Hebrews)

 Giving Money is like an ***Offering*** of ***Worship***!

Where did Paul get this idea that Money is so Significant?

 Evidence of Grace; Expression of Fellowship;

Ministering to people and Worshipping God!

**Matthew 6:21** – *Where your treasure is, there your* ***heart*** *will be also*.

**ILL** – Mark 12:41 – *Jesus Sat down and watched how the people were putting money into the Treasury*

***App*** – You cannot exclude your money from the Lordship of Jesus.

 **9:13** – *obedience to your confession of the Gospel*!

**t/s** – A step deeper… I would not go here but Paul does…

**Talk about Giving Money in the Context of the Cross.**

***Exp*** – Read again **2 Corinthians 8:9 2 Corinthians 9:15**

Paul puts this whole discussion in shadow of Cross.

 Christian faithfulness, obedience, generosity… CROSS

Does Paul overstate, manipulate, misuse the Cross?

Do we underestimate, minimize and misunderstand Giving Money?

**Ill** – I tried to carefully choose setting for conversations with boys

 (Driveway basketball goal; car; my study)

***To talk to us about money, Paul walks us to the foot of the Cross!***

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine,

 Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Invitation –

1. Ask Jesus to speak to you about your Giving Money!
2. Are you looking for evidence of the Gospel?

These people believe enough to Give Money!

Worship Service Remarks

**8:15** Call to Worship – **Habakkuk 2:20**

 *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?* **1 Cor. 3:16**

 Invocation and Welcome

***Election Remarks*** – Marquee on small Baptist church in N.C*., “When the donkey and the elephant disappoint you, Trust the Lamb.”*

* Disappointment, confusion, challenging
* Pray, Read (messenger election guide), Vote and Pray More.
* No Ugly Words that hinder the Gospel and No FEAR.
* This evening… Prayer Time.

Closing Prayer –

**9:30** Prayer; acknowledging His Presence, our sin, His Grace…

Intro. Mr. Mark… Pray for families

 T/S – Welcome Guests and ask Chris Dishman to Pray

 Intro Larry McAtee (Joanne)… Deacon, Teacher, OKC Council

 Asked to Share a Testimony about Giving

 Election Remarks and Closing Prayer

**11:00** Call to Worship – **Habakkuk 2:20**

 *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you*? **1 Cor. 3:16**

 (Stand and prepare to sing) **Invocation**

Election Remarks and Closing Prayer