

We're Giving To Get

The Greatest Gift

Misconceptions about about giving...

- All they want is my money.
- The Church doesn't need my money.
- People only give to get rich or get noticed.

God is a giver! James 1:17; I Chronicles 29:12-14

- When God gives, He gets a return... a relationship with His children, who bring Him glory!
- When we give, we get a return that can't be measured in dollars alone!

In II Corinthians 8 & 9, the Apostle Paul is taking an offering...

- For struggling believers in Jerusalem.
- From the Corinthians who had committed to give a year ago.

In these two chapters we see an example of and a pattern for biblical giving.
(To be dealt with in next week's sermon.)

Two important verses stand out in these chapters, reminding us of the Greatest Gift!
II Corinthians 8:9; 9:15

God the Father's gift...

- Pre-shadowed by Abraham and Isaac. Genesis 22:1-14
- Gave His only unique Son. John 3:16

God the Son's gift...

- He was rich... His equality with God, His divine character and power.
- He became poor... His incarnation, He became flesh.
John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-8
- He made it possible for us to become "rich", giving us eternal life.
Romans 6:23

God the Holy Spirit's gift...

- He lives in us. Romans 8:9
- He guides us. John 16:13
- He fills or controls us. Ephesians 5:18
- He empowers us. Acts 1:8

When God asks us to give, it is based on His own generous example!

