

“FANNING THE FINANCIAL FIRE”

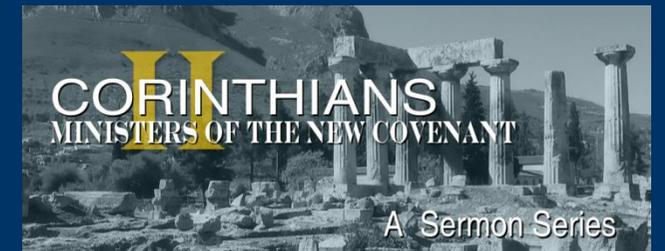
(2 Corinthians 8:10-24)

Expository Sermon of II Corinthians - Sermon 17

Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam

Date: January 14, 2018

Place: Hope Community Baptist Church



INTRODUCTION:



#1
TRAVEL BESTSELLER
ON AMAZON

The Kindness Diaries

One Man's Quest to Ignite Goodwill
and Transform Lives Around the World

Leon Logothetis



THE KINDNESS DIARIES



INTRODUCTION:



The Macedonian church despite living in poverty and affliction, they gave generously to the needy church in Jerusalem.

The Corinthian church had likewise begun a Jerusalem - Aid Project.



I. FOUR WORDS THAT FREE US FINANCIALLY

What is the
implication
of saying...



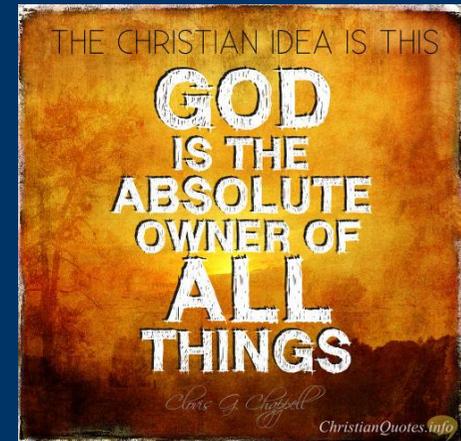
Job 41:11 "Everything under heaven belongs to me."

Ps 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

1 Cor 6:19b You are not your own.

1 Cor 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings.

1 Tim 6:7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.



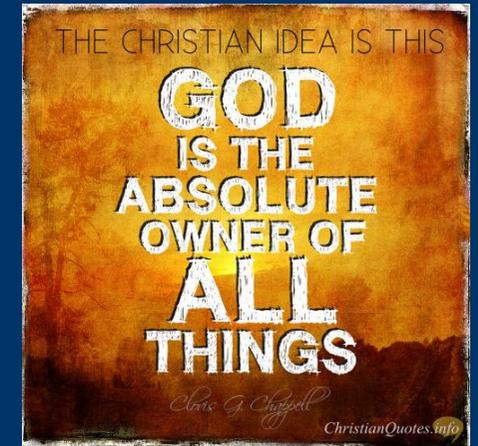
I. FOUR WORDS THAT FREE US FINANCIALLY

There are three revolutionary implications of God owns it all.

A) He has the right to whatever He wants whenever He wants it.

B) Not only is my giving decision a spiritual decision, but every spending decision is a spiritual decision.

C) We can't fake stewardship.



II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

A) Paul offers 3 incentives of giving

1) Stop and consider the blessings of God.

2 Cor 9:7 But since you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you — see that you also excel in this grace of giving.



II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

A) Paul offers 3 incentives of giving

2) *Listen to the testimony of others .*

2 Cor 9:8 I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others.



II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

A) Paul offers 3 incentives of giving

3) *Look at the example of Christ.*

2 Cor 9:9 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 through his poverty might become rich.



II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

B) Paul cautions them on 4 hindrances in giving

1) Procrastination

2 Cor 8:10 And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. *11a* Now finish the work,



II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

B) Paul cautions them on 4 hindrances in giving

2) *Hesitation*

2 Cor 8:11b *so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. **12** For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.*



II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

B) Paul cautions them on 4 hindrances in giving

C) *Overreaction*

2 Cor 8:12 For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.



II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

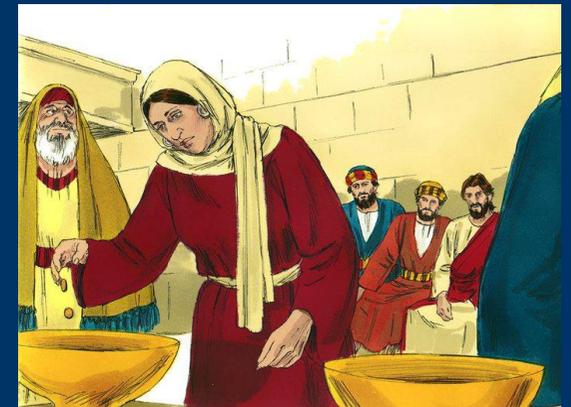
B) Paul cautions them on 4 hindrances in giving

The story of the poor widow



Mark 12:41 *Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.*

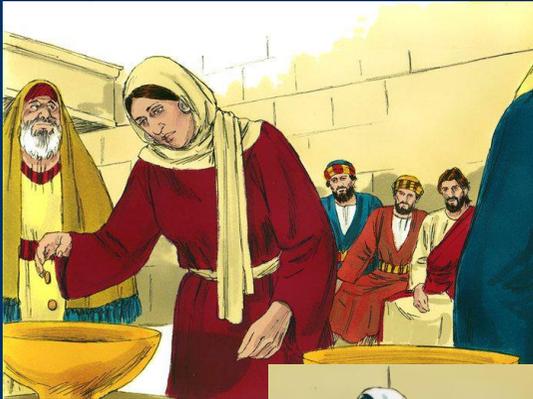
Mark 12:42 *But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.*



II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

B) Paul cautions them on 4 hindrances in giving

The story of the poor widow



Mark 12:43 *Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. **44** They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."*

II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

B) Paul cautions them on 4 hindrances in giving

D) *Exception*

WHEN GOD

blesses you financially, don't raise your standard of living. Raise your standard of

GIVING

25 HELPFUL BIBLE VERSES ABOUT BEING A BLESSING TO OTHERS

2 Cor 8:13 Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. **14** At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, **15** as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little."

II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

C) Paul reminds them of 2 principles in giving

1) Only qualified people should handle financial matters.

2 Cor 8:16 Thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same concern I have for you



Earnestness

II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

C) Paul reminds them of 2 principles in giving

1) Only qualified people should handle financial matters.

2 Cor 8:17 For Titus not only welcomed our appeal, but he is coming to you with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative



willing heart

II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

C) Paul reminds them of 2 principles in giving

1) Only qualified people should handle financial matters.

2 Cor 8:19 What is more, he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering, which we administer in order to honor the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help.



appointed by the churches

II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

C) Paul reminds them of 2 principles in giving

1) Only qualified people should handle financial matters.

2 Cor 8:22a *In addition, we are sending with them our brother who has often proved to us in many ways that he is zealous,*



diligent

II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

C) Paul reminds them of 2 principles in giving

1) Only qualified people should handle financial matters.

2 Cor 8:23 As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ.



a partner & fellow worker

II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

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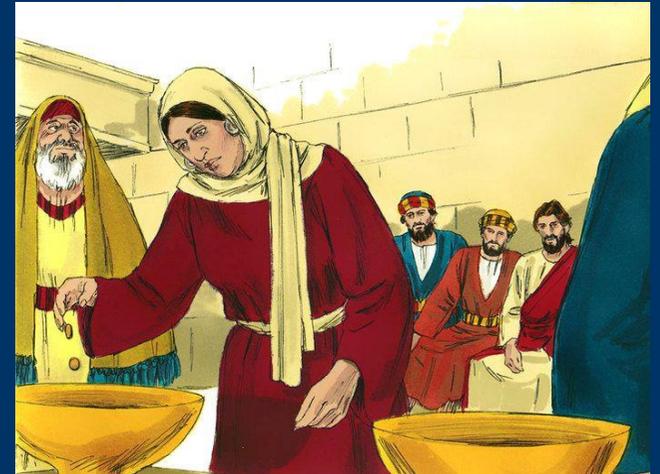
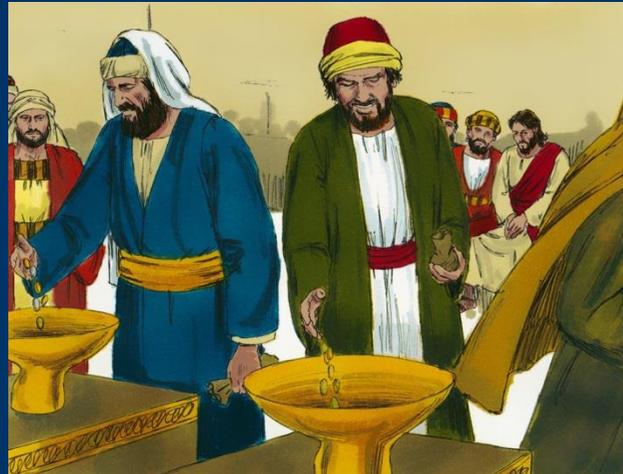


and a glory to Christ

II. PUTTING THOSE WORDS TO THE TEST BACK THEN

C) Paul reminds them of 2 principles in giving
2) Money matters should be administered honestly and openly.

2 Cor 8:24 Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.



CONCLUSION:



To add fuel to the flame that hopefully has ignited in your heart, take these concluding moments to consider how Paul's words apply to you personally.

A) Do I really believe God owns it all?

B) Have I considered God's blessings?

C) Am I currently hiding behind excuses for not giving?





CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Why are those who are poor and needy more generous in sharing than those who are rich and affluence?*
- 2. What is the implication when we say, "God owns it all?" How does it change the way we use our treasures entrusted to our care?*
- 3. How does it change our attitude of giving when we consider the blessings of God?*
- 4. How did the testimony of the Macedonians affect the Corinthians?*
- 5. Briefly describe how the four hindrances affect our giving?*
- 6. Why did Paul impose such stringent principles when it comes to handling money?*



Scripture References:

2 Corinthians 8:10-24