

# GENEROUS LIKE GOD

Sunday April 6, 2025 — OUR GENEROUS GOD series Msg #3 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

## REVIEW:

God's LOVE means that God \_\_\_\_\_ Himself to others.

JOHN 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...

God CREATED all things, He OWNS all things, and He GENEROUSLY GIVES all things.

Romans 8:32; 2 Peter 1:3; James 1:17; Psalm 84:11

God's GENEROSITY is seen in...

- |                            |                   |      |                             |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| • <u>Eternity Past</u>     | (His Trinity),    | ---> | <u>WITHIN HIMSELF!</u>      |
| • <u>the Present</u>       | (His redemption), | ---> | <u>THE CROSS!</u>           |
| • <u>Eternity Future</u> . | (His promises)    | ---> | <u>HEAVEN/ETERNAL LIFE!</u> |

## SO HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THIS GENEROUS GOD?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ HIM. Turn to Him in repentance and belief.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ IN HIM. Live for Him in gratitude and worship.
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ HIM. Give as He gave in generosity and gladness.

EPHESIANS 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

## GIVING GENEROUSLY LIKE GOD: So WHAT and HOW do we give?

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-7 (The poor Macedonians show us how to give like God.) ESV

1 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of **Macedonia**, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in **a wealth of generosity on their part**. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— 5 and this, not as we expected, **but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us**. 6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. 7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

## SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND:

- 1) Paul is writing to the church at \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Paul commends them for \_\_\_\_\_ of great sinfulness.
- 3) Paul is taking a widespread collection for suffering Christians in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Paul tells the Corinthians about the great \_\_\_\_\_ of the Macedonian people.
- 5) Paul challenges them to give of themselves -- including their \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul is like JESUS when it comes to talking about money:

- Jesus spoke more about money than \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- Out of \_\_\_\_\_ parables \_\_\_\_\_ of them were about money.
- The Gospel of Luke is saturated with teachings on \_\_\_\_\_.  
Luke 12:34: "For where your \_\_\_\_\_ is, there your \_\_\_\_\_ will be also."

- 1) All that we ARE.

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## SO WHAT and HOW do we give?

1) NOTICE the Macedonians' act of \_\_\_\_\_. chapters 8:1-9:15

**Χάρις** = *charis* (or 'grace') occurs 8 times in chapters 8 and 9.

Referring to the undeserved \_\_\_\_\_ in regards to salvation.

Referring to the undeserved \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints.

2) Notice the Macedonians' extreme affliction and \_\_\_\_\_. vs 2

*severe affliction* = persecution and harassment

*extreme poverty* = βάθους = *bathos* 'deep' 'their down-to-the-depths poverty'

Basically, they were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

3) Notice the Macedonians' \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ gift. vs 2 & 3

Beyond all \_\_\_\_\_!

4) Notice the Macedonians' \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ emotion. vs 4

They viewed it as a \_\_\_\_\_.

5) Notice the Macedonians' \_\_\_\_\_ motivation. vs 4

They viewed it as a privilege to help \_\_\_\_\_ of fellow Christians.

6) Notice WHAT the Macedonians gave:

A- They gave \_\_\_\_\_ first to GOD and then to OTHERS. vs 5

B- They gave THEIR \_\_\_\_\_ as a help to those in need.

Their willing, sacrificial gift became a visible manifestation of their Christ-like love.

**THE CALL TO ACTION: vs 7** 'see that you excel in this act of grace also.'

Like Jesus, Paul calls Christians to everything, including \_\_\_\_\_, to needs of others and the work of God's kingdom.

*8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. 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 by his poverty might become rich.*

See and follow Christ's example in generous giving for the \_\_\_\_\_.