

1. Because God has been so generous to us!

*“1 we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches...2 their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity...7 see that you also excel in this grace of giving ...9 **for you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty became rich...**9:2 I know your eagerness to help...6...whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver...11...you will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity result in thanksgiving to God” (2 Cor. 8-9).*

2. Because loving money is dangerous!

*“6...godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing we will be content with that. 9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.** Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs...command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 in this way they will lay up treasures for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age” (1 Tim. 6 cf. James 5:1-6;; Mat.6:19-33; Mk.4:19; 10:23ff; Heb.13:5)*

3. Because earning for gospel ministry is blessed!

“33 I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. 34 You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. 35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20)

i.e. God is now our treasure!

*“44 The kingdom of heaven is like **treasure** hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then **in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.** 45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for **fine pearls.** 46 when he found one of great value, he went away and **sold everything he had and bought it”** (Matt13 cf. Mat.6:19-33)*

⇒ **How much can you give?**

NOTICES

Coffee Question!

Do we want to be generous?