

# **The Ministry of Stewardship**

## **2 Corinthians 8-9**

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1. When it comes to teaching on stewardship, our motivation is not selfish. I don't teach stewardship because we are hurting financially.
  2. A financial counselor has stated, "You can't fake stewardship. Your checkbook reveals all that you really believe about stewardship."
  3. Today as we examine the primary NT texts on generous giving in 2 Corinthians 8-9, we will examine the ministry of stewardship and answer the practical questions.
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- I. The Plan for Godly Stewardship. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, "And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity." (8:1-2)
    - A. The Macedonian churches gave in a way that pleased God.
    - B. There are eight principles of the Macedonians' generosity.
  
  - II. What Lessons Can We Learn From the Macedonian Churches?  
2 Corinthians 8:3-4, "For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints."
    - A. Giving is not about our problems but our priorities (v. 2). "Severe trial"
    - B. Giving is not about our wealth but our willingness (v. 2). "Beyond ability"
    - C. Giving is not about our obligations but our opportunities (v. 4). "pleaded with us"
    - D. Giving is not about legalism but Lordship (v. 5). "They gave themselves first to the Lord."
  
  - III. The Principles of Godly Stewardship. 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
    - A. Stewardship is a choice (v. 6). "Whoever sows generously will also reap generously."
    - B. Stewardship is to be cheerful (v. 7). "God loves a cheerful giver."
    - C. Stewardship builds confidence (v. 8). "God is able to make all grace abound to you."
    - D. Stewardship brings contentment (vv. 9-15). "You will be made rich in every way."