

The Big Payoff  
II Corinthians 9:6-15, Psalm 112:1-10  
November 26, 2017

1. You're in for a \_\_\_\_\_!

II Corinthians 9:6 **Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.**

II Corinthians 9:7 **Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

II Corinthians 9:8 **And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.**

II Corinthians 9:9 **As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."**

II Corinthians 9:10 **Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.**

II Corinthians 9:11 **You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.**

II Corinthians 9:12 **This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.**

II Corinthians 9:13 **Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.**

II Corinthians 9:14 **And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.**

2. The big payoff is \_\_\_\_\_.

II Corinthians 9:15 **Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**

3. The greatest gift ever is \_\_\_\_\_.

The Big Payoff  
II Corinthians 9:6-15, Psalm 112:1-10  
November 26, 2017

- Did you have a good Thanksgiving?
- So did 106 other families because of your generosity.
- “They gotta have mashed potatoes!”
- Woodbury has done this for 29 years. (Bonnevile.)
- Hannah, Dean, Robert and others led it.
- Over the years, thousands of families have been blessed by your generosity.
- And there will be a BIG PAYOFF!

1. You're in for a big payoff!

II Corinthians 9:6 ***Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.***

II Corinthians 9:7 ***Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.***

II Corinthians 9:8 ***And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound (... you'll be able to buy a bigger house, a nicer car, a yacht. No) in every good work.***

II Corinthians 9:9 ***As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; (their riches endure forever. Their estate endures forever – like Biltmore. Their fame and legacy endures forever. No.) their righteousness endures forever.”***

- Steve Jobs said Bill Gates was wise enough not to want to be the richest man in the cemetery.

II Corinthians 9:10 ***Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your (money. Material goods. No.) righteousness.***

II Corinthians 9:11 ***You will be enriched in every way (so that you can buy whatever you want and never worry about paying the bills. No.) so that you can be generous on every occasion,***

***(The reason God entrusts riches to us is so that we can use them generously to further His purposes, to advance His kingdom on earth. That's what "stewardship" means.) and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.***

- 106 Families had a better Thanksgiving because you gave.
- They gave thanks to God in ways they would not have, if you had not been so generous!
- YOU had a better Thanksgiving because you gave.
- Bill and Melinda Gates said that giving 95% of their wealth to charity was the most meaningful thing they ever did.

II Corinthians 9:12 ***This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing (much material wealth that will come your way. No.) in many expressions of thanks to God.***

- Think of that. Because you put a few dollars in a collection plate, praise soared to heaven, and God's throne-room was filled with thanksgiving that would not have been there if you had spent that money on yourself or even saved it or invested it in your retirement fund.
- God had a better Thanksgiving because you gave!
- Listen, this isn't about you and me, and the blessings we get out of our generosity.

- It isn't even about the hungry people we helped. It is very good that hungry people were fed on Thanksgiving and at other time. "supplying the needs of the Lord's people"
- But according to the Bible, the really great thing is that people praised God! They thanked God.
- This is a foretaste of Heaven!
- Your generosity created a foretaste of heaven – or at least contributed to it.

II Corinthians 9:13 ***Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.***

- Think this through with me.
- 1. Man's chief end (the purpose of human life) is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. That's what God wants!
- 2. You put some money in the collection plate for Thanksgiving Baskets.
- 3. Hannah and her crew bought turkeys and fixin's and delivered them to the schools, the food pantry etc.
- 4. People who received those baskets not only enjoyed a feast, they glorified and enjoyed God. That's what God wants!!
- And by the way, all of this is true not just of the money you gave for Thanksgiving baskets.
- The same kind of thing happens when you give to missions.
- The same kind of thing happens when you give to keep the lights on and cover other on-going expenses at the church
- so there is a place, not only where people can collect money for food

- but where people can come and hear the Gospel
  - and receive the Sacraments
  - and learn to walk with Jesus in the Spirit-filled life.
  - and experience spiritual growth in a community of Christ-like love
  - and so much more.

II Corinthians 9:14 ***And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.***

- Do you believe prayer is powerful? People prayed for you because of your generosity.
- Further, your giving is a witness to the goodness of God in Jesus Christ.
- It was an act of evangelism.

- Contrast that with the greedy mayhem of Black Friday.
- God's values are very different from the world's values.
- YOUR values are very different from the world's values.

2. The big payoff is spiritual.

- There is a lot of preaching and teaching that giving and tithing will lead to material prosperity.
- There's truth to that, and I preach it to a degree.
- Malachi 3:10 says ***“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”***
- Jesus said, in Luke 6:38, ***“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken***

*together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

- There are material blessings that come from generosity.
- People and churches need to tithe and be generous if they want to prosper.
- But that isn't limited to material prosperity.
- And the spiritual prosperity is far more important.

- Read the last verse aloud with me, please.

II Corinthians 9:15 ***Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!***

3. The greatest gift ever is Jesus Christ.

- Gospel Presentation
- John 3:16
- God is a giving God, a generous God.
- We can't be godly people without being generous people.
- There are benefits from generosity.
- Material benefits, to be sure,
- But the greatest benefits are spiritual.
- And God is praised.
- THAT's the big payoff.