

The Purpose of Generosity

Welcome South Campus

One of the things we like this time of year is the generosity we experience...the overall feeling of gift giving and people seem to be more generous to random strangers. "Christmas Spirit" - People who are normally mean become kind...stingy become generous.

There is an innate joy tied to giving. Which is why this time of year makes us happy.

Generosity is a kind open handed spirit...marked by liberal giving...some say generous people are those unattached to material possessions.

Generosity is one of our core values - *Giving is the verb of the Bible, "God loved the world, so He gave." We believe generosity kills both greed and fear while creating an environment of Faith.*

The purpose of our generosity.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 *17 As for **the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.***

If I asked who here is rich? Probably no one would raise their hand.

We live in a culture where rich...is relative to our current position. Rich is the next level up from you.

- Global Rich List - 24k a year is in the top 2% of the worlds richest people.
- Median household income in Gregg County is \$47,000 - which is in the top 0.37 percent of the richest people in the world by income.

DON'T SET YOUR HOPES ON THE UNCERTAINTY OF RICHES

*****Notice it doesn't say don't have stuff...**he is basically saying just don't let stuff have you. In fact he says "God richly provides us with everything to enjoy" - We can enjoy what God has given us...Just don't consume it all.

Genesis 12:2 - *I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.*

DO GOOD AND BE RICH IN GOOD WORKS GENEROUS AND READY TO SHARE

God doesn't care what you have...he cares what you do with what you have.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 - *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.*

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.

This is what the more is for. God will continue to provide resources to those who are generous on every occasion

Luke 12:48 says “...**Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more**”

This isn't just about money...it's about any resource we have! It's about stewarding what God has entrusted to us.

- Time (serving, leading, helping caring for)
- Physical resources (home, cars, clothes, etc)
- Gifts (using your gifts not for your own advancement but for kingdom advancement)

THUS STORING UP TREASURE FOR THEMSELVES AS A GOOD FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

If we are not careful...we can just live our lives for ourselves. We forget the purpose of the more that God has given us.

We are not living for this life.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 - *He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, **he has put eternity into man's heart...***

Dr. David Shibley in his book “**Living as if Heaven Matters**” says that one greek definition for the word man or human is “upward looker” - In other words we are meant to be anchored upward.

***There is a future that we need to be focused on. Heaven is our aim.
We are strangers in this world. Just passing through***

Philippians 3:18-20 - 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, **their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.** 20 **But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,**

James 4:14 - *What is your life? **For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.***

James is reminding us...that our time is short...we need to contemplate how we spend our life...how we use what we have while in it.

Luke 16:8-9 NLT - 8 “*The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light.* 9 Here's the lesson: **Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.**

The riches in THIS life...are to build riches in THAT life

Our generosity on earth...should be aimed at heaven. - We are wise when we are thinking about the next life...the one much longer than this short life on earth.

Matthew 6:19-20 - 19 **“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

Somehow treasures in heaven has been seen as way to get people to do things on this earth for free...but if we knew what heaven holds for us...we would give up everything in this world for it.

Don't invest everything into this life.

Paul is saying - When you store up treasure for the future...you are taking hold of what is true life...you are taking hold of eternity.

The 2 questions we will have to answer when we get to heaven are

1. **What did you do with Jesus** - Great White Throne Judgement
2. **What did you do with what I entrusted to you?** Judgement Seat of Christ

1 Corinthians 3:11-14 - 11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 13 **each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.** 14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, **he will receive a reward.**

This is why we can't just do good. Even lost people do good deeds...give money to charity...serve at soup kitchens. **We have to do good and be generous IN JESUS NAME.**

God wants us to give...to be generous with everything

Generosity on purpose is intentionally giving our time, our resources and our gifts to get people to Jesus.