

A Generous Act of Grace – Part 2

Introduction and Review

- Opposition toward believers may result in extreme poverty but we persevere by the strength of God's grace (v. 1-2a)
- The grace of God enables believers to give generously even when they are in extreme poverty (v. 2b-6)
- Giving generously is a test of genuine love & an act of grace for wealthy believers (v. 6-10)
- Giving generously & faithfully is a test for wealthy believers because there are so many temptations to disrupt giving (v. 11-15) - *procrastination* (v. 11), *indecisiveness* (v. 12), *misinterpretation* (v. 13) & *misapplication* (v. 14-15)

I. Handling Money for the Glory of God (v. 16-18)

A. A clean heart (v. 16)

*God controls the believer's **heart** with grace & liberty – new, clean, searches, conviction, desires, etc. A clean heart has “earnest care” for other people in need – true humility.*

B. An obedient heart (v. 17-18)

God gives a believer both the desire & ability to obey Him (v. 17, 10; Phil. 2:13) – “of his own accord”. Obedience to God is revealed in other godly ministries (v. 18).

Handling money for God requires a clean & obedient heart.

II. Handling Money for the Edification of People (v. 19-24)

A. Good reputation (v. 19-22)

Blameless means being free from wrong or guilt (v. 19-20). Honorable means meeting high standards or expectations (v. 21). People who handle money for God must have a tested & proven godly character (v. 22; 1Tim. 3:8-10).

B. Affirmation of the church (v. 23-24)

Men who handle money have a special relationship with each other, the church & God (v. 23). The church should demonstrate love & appreciation for faithful men who handle money (v. 24).

Handling money for God requires a good reputation & affirmation of the church!