

Sermon Study Guide – July 29th, 2018:

Today's Focus – "My Christian Life: Giver"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ Are you a giver or a taker? Which one is better and why? Is there good to be found in both? If so, how?
- ◆ How does giving fit into our Christian lives? What do you have to give that can benefit others?... Bring praise to God?

2) Today's Message: 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And 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. ⁹As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:



How does today's sermon show you how God wants you to live your life? (i.e. What good works does this motivate us to do?)

Feel free to answer the following questions to help you follow the sermon...

1. What do verses 7-8 teach us about how God wants us to give? How might this differ from the world's idea of giving?
2. While this section focuses on our Christian lives of giving, what else does verse 8 teach us about giving? (*hint: look at the 1st "all"!*)
3. Describe Jesus' giving in terms of time, talents, and treasure.
4. What is the first thing God actually wants us to do as "givers"? How does this help us truly to give? (*hint: verse 9 ties into this...*)
5. What practical advice does verse 6 add to this message? How does it connect especially to Grace Lutheran?

4) Taking it Home:

Consider the following as you go about your week:

- ◆ God is truly a "giver" in every sense of the term! Yet, how might we be tempted to view God as a "taker"? How will this make it harder for us to give? How can you avoid this and always view God as the giver?
- ◆ Take an honest inventory of your time, talents, and treasures. Where can you give more to others or to God? Can you think of ways you can do it in each of these three categories? God tells you in his Word to give more... do it!

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:

Monday: review 2 Kgs. 4:1-7, Lk. 19:1-10

Thursday: Malachi 3:1-12

Tuesday: Proverbs 22:1-10

Friday: Philippians 4:10-20

Wednesday: 1 Timothy 6

Saturday: review 2 Cor. 9:6-9