



Week of March February 24th, 2008

Power of Ten—Part 1

Opening Questions:

- What was something challenging, thought provoking, or encouraging that you heard from this weekend's message on tithing?
- How have you personally seen God provide and bless you through tithing?
- What was/is the hardest part/biggest challenge for you?

Observation Questions—2 Corinthians 8:1-15

1. The Apostle Paul is taking the opportunity to encourage the Corinthian church by sharing the testimony of the Macedonian church. What did the Macedonians do that he thought was so amazing? What else do we learn about these dear brothers and sisters in Christ (vv. 1-5)?
2. Why are the Macedonians so interested in giving? What are they giving towards? How does their passion/attitude inspire us to consider others in our giving patterns?
3. What do we learn about the Corinthians and their participation in this love gift (not their tithe)? What exhortation does Paul give to them in vv. 7–8, 10?
4. What instructions does Paul give regarding their gift (vv. 11-14)
5. What is the context/history behind v. 15? See Exodus 16.

Guidelines for

Inductive Bible Study

- **OBSERVE**— never make the text say what it doesn't say or what you simply want it to say. Read the text and ask the faithful 'who, what, where, when and why' questions of the scripture as you record your answers, questions, and thoughts.
- **INTERPRET**— be sure to interpret scripture with scripture. Try and understand the context surrounding a verse or a passage. See if you can understand the mindset of the original hearers, speakers, or writers. Their understanding of the text is much more important than yours at this stage.
- **APPLY**—once you have seen what is in the text, and understand what it likely means, then you are ready to apply what you have learned. Ask— "What does it mean to me?" "What should I think, do, say, or feel as a result of this Biblical teaching?" For application to be most effective, make it :
 - PERSONAL—(I)
 - POSSIBLE—(CAN),
 - PRACTICAL—(DO IT!)
 - PROVABLE—(BY WHEN!?)

Connection Questions

1. The Macedonians are amazing people. They are going through severe trials, hardships, poverty, and persecution. And yet, they not only ‘beg’ for the opportunity to give to their brothers and sisters suffering in Jerusalem, but give generously—what they could afford...and even more! If this is a pattern that we are supposed to follow, why do you think that we rarely see this kind of attitude in the hearts of believers today? How does our attitude in giving reveal something about our love...for God or for others?
2. Many people use Matthew 6:1-6 to justify not talking about money. But the scriptures (including Jesus and Paul) talk about it all of the time. So, what is Jesus warning us about in Matthew 6 and how do we reconcile His counsel with the massive amounts of scriptural ‘voices’ we hear on the subject of money and giving?
3. Paul encouraged the believers who excelled at things like faith, teaching, knowledge, enthusiasm, and love...to also excel in the gracious ministry of giving. We know that there is a spiritual gift of giving, but how is giving a ministry? How should/can we seek to joyfully excel in it? Is that what you are doing? Or, are you more likely looking for ways to shrink back from it?
4. What principles does Paul give for deciding how much to give (I believe over and above your tithe) to an offering like this? What principles does he give to the Corinthian church as they raise funds? How should these principles impact our decisions to give to, for example, our Building Home Base campaign?

Prayer Items

- + *Pray for a spirit that eagerly desires to not only learn from the testimony of other churches, but to imitate them as we serve Christ and His people.*
- + *Pray for those who will be taking the Tithe Test or the Tithe Challenge this month!!*
- + *Pray for our groundbreaking on April 6th and for another successful year of BHB!!*