

RSMI Biblical Principles Concerning Giving

- 1 Although it is common among most of the church to speak in terms of tithing, it is the conviction of *RSMI* that a different approach is necessary. It is because of this belief that we as a ministry base our model of giving on 2 Cor. Chaps. 8-9.
- 2 Giving is to be entirely upon the heart of the individual (2 Cor. 8:3)
- 3 One is to completely give themselves to the Lord (2 Cor. 8:5a) with the result that they will act in keeping with the will of God (2 Cor. 8:5b)
- 4 Giving is a grace placed in someone's life by the Lord (2 Cor. 8:7).
- 5 Giving exemplifies the heart and love of the Savior (2 Cor. 8:8, 9)
- 6 Our giving is not acceptable to God if we do not will to give (2 Cor. 8:12).
- 7 Giving is to be according to what one has, not according to what one does not have (2 Cor. 8:12).
- 8 When we have abundance, we are to give liberally, and in return, when we have lack, abundance will be supplied to us (2 Cor. 8:13-15).
- 9 When we give, it brings honor to God (2 Cor. 8:19).
- 10 Giving is proof of love: Love of the body, Love of those that do not know Him, and Love of Christ Himself (2 Cor. 8:24).
- 11 We must honor the commitments we have made to give (2 Cor. 9:1-5).
- 12 If we sow sparingly, we will reap sparingly – conversely, if we sow generously, we will reap generously (2 Cor. 9:6).
- 13 Giving, and the amount given, is an individual decision. If we are pressured to provide a specific amount, the gift is not given from the heart, and therefore the gift is not acceptable before God (2 Cor. 9:7-9).
- 14 Our provision comes from God. As we are obedient to sow according to His will, He has promised to enrich us in every way. As a result, those who receive the gift will glorify God (2 Cor. 9:10-11).
- 15 As we supply the needs of others, i.e., those who are called to labor in the word and prayer, as well as the widow, the stranger, and the orphan, it enhances the spread of the Gospel, and God receives praise (2 Cor. 9:12-14). Simply put, if we give into a work of God in a particular body, we must have the assurance it will be used not only for the support of the ministry within the walls of the church, to train up the body of Christ, but also for outreach: to feed the poor, and clothe the naked, to shelter those who have no home, and to promote the spreading of the Gospel.

- 16 Ultimately, thanks should be given to God at all times and in all manners for the gracious gift of His Son, Jesus Christ the Lord (2 Cor. 9:15).

- 17 To sum up *RSMI's* stance on offerings and giving, it is up to the individual or the family to determine what they are to give at any particular time, according to the will of the Lord for them. He knows our individual needs and is the source of all supply. They are expected to pray for direction and then give in harmony to His revealed will. It is in this revealed will and our obedience to it that we find liberty. The Lord is found faithful to give direction as far as the amount, yet the Spirit-led obligation is incumbent upon all those who claim the name of Christ to support His work in the fellowship where He has placed them. If we are faithful to act in obedient response to His direction, He will supply not only our needs but also the need of the ministry as well.