

Marks of Grace #XII

Acts 2:41-47

10.01.06

## “And All Those Who Had Believed ... Had All Things In Common ...” Pt. II

Intro: Just as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God marked the lives of the first believers, so too is the grace of God to profoundly effect us and \_\_\_\_\_ us out as those who have come to \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is the Christ.

### Acts 2:41-47

I. The early church was marked with the godly \_\_\_\_\_ of generous \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Such giving comes as we understand that \_\_\_\_\_ we are and have first and foremost belongs to \_\_\_\_\_.

B. There are divine \_\_\_\_\_ for which we are to give.

1. A divine purpose for our giving is to \_\_\_\_\_ “those who proclaim the gospel” that they might “get their living from the gospel” as “the Lord directed” (1 Cor. 9:14).

2. Another divine purpose for which God blesses us is that we would \_\_\_\_\_ (or give) in liberality to the meeting the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints, and that for the ultimate purpose of God increasing the harvest of our righteousness, which includes \_\_\_\_\_ being \_\_\_\_\_ as a result of our meeting the saints needs.

II. The early church gave in a \_\_\_\_\_.

A. The N.T. records that the people of the early church \_\_\_\_\_ the offerings to the Temple and \_\_\_\_\_ them at the apostle’s feet for proper distribution.

1. The practical manner in which the early church gave the practical manner of \_\_\_\_\_. giving with the idea being (as Scripture establishes) that such giving is giving \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Paul instructed the church to put aside and save “on the first day of \_\_\_\_\_” (I Cor. 16:1-2).

1. On a weekly basis the church was to give intelligent thought as they \_\_\_\_\_ upon the blessings of God. And, as a matter of worship when they came together they were to \_\_\_\_\_ accordingly.

2. The N.T. \_\_\_\_\_ in giving on a regular basis whereby there would be no need to receive a special offering is to \_\_\_\_\_ giving grudgingly or under compulsion. (Cf. 2 Cor. 9:7)

III. Giving \_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ is to mark the church.

A. In 2 Corinthians 8 the Apostle Paul identified giving as a grace and \_\_\_\_\_ the church to “\_\_\_\_\_ in this grace of giving.”

B. The church’s right-hearted giving is a grace because the Apostle did \_\_\_\_\_ it (2 Cor. 8: . Furthermore, the church is \_\_\_\_\_ under the \_\_\_\_\_, but under grace! (Cf. Romans 6:14-15 & Galatians)

C. Voluntary giving is to mark the church of Jesus Christ because such giving is a \_\_\_\_\_ of our gracious Savior, who is “the exact representation of the nature” \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 1:3). (Cf. 2 Cor 8:9; Phil 2:5-8; Isa 53:5)

1. Giving as a grace is an \_\_\_\_\_ of godly love.

a. Giving as a grace involves giving at the expense of self to \_\_\_\_\_ bounty (a \_\_\_\_\_) upon the recipient of the gift. And as we give to confer many blessings, many blessings will be realized!

b. It is no wonder then that \_\_\_\_\_ a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7), for they give not for their benefit, but for the bounty of others.

c. God Himself is \_\_\_\_\_ in the cheerful giver because cheerful giving is a \_\_\_\_\_ of Himself and in this He is glorified!

**Closing:** The grace of giving should mark our lives as cheerful giving is a reflection of our Lord! When you give, give as you have purposed in your heart to give, not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all \_\_\_\_\_ abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance \_\_\_\_\_.” (2 Cor 9:6-8)

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