

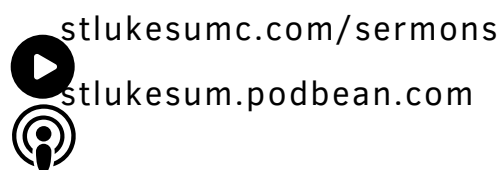
OCTOBER 31, 2021

# Stewardship Series

*For Mature Audiences Only*



## ACCORDING TO WHAT ONES HAS



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### *Getting Started:*

- Welcome to Week 2 of our Stewardship Series: For Mature Audiences Only. This week we will explore what Paul has to say about how (and how much) we give.
- Start your time together by sharing about your week. What was a high point? What do you wish had gone differently?
- "Sharing" is a basic lesson we teach from the beginning of childhood...but sharing isn't always easy! Tell about a time it was difficult for you to share.
- Have a group member read this week's Scripture then open in prayer: Lord, you are generous with your love and grace to us. Help us live like you and be generous people as well. Amen.

## 2 Cor. 8:8-15

8I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 9For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

10And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. 11Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. 12For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

13Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. 14At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, 15as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little."

## *Sermon & Scripture Discussion:*

- In this section of Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he is addressing their question of how much they are expected to give. What is limiting about this question?
- Sometimes we believe that we will naturally become more generous if we have more resources. Do you think this is true or false? What examples have you seen of this in your own life?
- Paul emphasized caring for the poor as part of having mature faith. How do we view the poor today? What can prevent us from caring about them?
- Re-read verses 10 & 12. How do these verses speak to you and your practices around giving?
- Think about your own resources, spiritual gifts, abilities, and interests. What do you uniquely have to offer the world? Are you generously sharing your unique gifts, or is something making it difficult to do so? How could you be more generous with the thing(s) you named in the coming week?

## *Prayer Requests:*



**FOR M AUDIENCES ONLY**

A Stewardship Series