

**"IMMEASURABLY MORE" - Excel in the Grace of Giving**  
**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**  
**Leader Awareness Forum**  
**September 22, 2024, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

- I. Introduction
  - A. What are we trying to do?
  - B. Why are we trying to do this?
  - C. How can God guide, enable and empower us to accomplish this?
- II. A Verse to Guide our Conversation as we seek to Follow Christ's example; *"For whatever was written in former days was written for our **instruction**, that through **endurance** and through the **encouragement** of the **Scriptures**, we might have **hope**."* Romans 15:4 ESV
- III. So, how can the Old Testament Scriptures give us instruction and encouragement so that we might have hope when it comes to learning to **excel in the grace of giving**?
  - A. **Abraham** set the pace with his practice of a tithe. Gen. 14:20; Heb. 7:1-10
  - B. **Jacob** follows the example of his grandfather. Genesis 28:22
  - C. God established **mandatory laws** for His people at Mt. Sinai.
    1. The people were required to bring a **tithe** to the **Lord**. Lev. 27:30-32
    2. The people were required to bring a second **tithe** for their **festivals**. Deuteronomy 12:10-11; 14:22-27
    3. Every three years they brought a **tithe** for the **poor**. Deut. 14:28-29
    4. There was also a temple/census "charge." Exodus 30:13
  - D. They also had **freewill** and **voluntary** offerings, even including **capital** campaigns for various projects, such as:
    1. The building of the **tabernacle**. Exodus 25:1-9; 35:4-36:7
    2. The building of the **temple**. 1 Chronicles 28-29
    3. The **repairs** of the temple under Kings Joash and Josiah 2 Kings 12:4-6; 22:3-7
    4. The **rebuilding of the altar/temple** under Kings Cyrus and Darius. Ezra/Neh.
  - E. The last book in the Old Testament, Malachi, includes a stern **warning** and a marvelous **promise**. Malachi 3:6-15
  - F. Questions, Questions, Learnings and insights
    - 1.
    - 2.
    - 3.

- IV. How can the New Testament Scriptures give us instruction and encouragement so that we might have hope when it comes to learning to ***excel in the grace of giving?***
- A. **Nowhere** is the tithe prescribed for Christians.
  - B. However, Jesus **affirmed** the giving of the tithe in his comments to the scribes and Pharisees. Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42
  - C. Jesus commends two notably generous people in the gospels, i.e. excellent givers
    - 1. He cited a widow who gave **all** she had in the temple. Matt.21:1-4; Luke 21:1-4
    - 2. In response to Jesus, Zacchaeus, a tax collector, promised to give **half** of what he had to the poor and promised that if he had cheated anyone, he would pay them back **four times** the amount he cheated from them. Luke 19:1-10
  - D. St. Paul gives us great instruction and encouragement in 2 Corinthians 8-9.
    - 1. 8:1-2 – Generosity flows from the \_\_\_\_\_ out, not the \_\_\_\_\_ in.
    - 2. 8:3-4 – Grace enables us to give \_\_\_\_\_ our abilities.
    - 3. 8:5 – We are to give ourselves first to the \_\_\_\_\_ and then to \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - 4. 8:6-7 – We are called to \_\_\_\_\_ in our giving.
    - 5. 8:8 – The sincerity of our \_\_\_\_\_ is manifested in our giving/generosity.
    - 6. 8:9 – \_\_\_\_\_ is to be our model and power for our giving.
    - 7. 8:10-12 – God wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - 8. 8:13-15 – God calls for \_\_\_\_\_ in our giving.
    - 9. 8:16-24 – We are to keep everything \_\_\_\_\_ in giving.
    - 10. 9:1-5 – We, especially leaders, are to be \_\_\_\_\_ giving role models.
    - 11. 9:6-11 – Remember: you \_\_\_\_\_ what you \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - 12. 9:12-15 – Discover the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by giving!

V. Closing Questions/Comments/Learnings, and insights