

The Macedonians did not give like worldly rich people often do, mere tokens of their riches, without sacrifice. Nor did they give like selfish Christians, whose love for temporal things matches their love for eternal things. Giving for them is a battle, because they are still holding on to the temporal. The Macedonians gave magnanimously and abundantly, consistent with Christ's command to "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matt. 6:33). But Paul shuts out all thought of human merit by noting that they did so because they were prompted by God's grace (Eph. 2:10).

Growth Questions for 9/5 – 9/12

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, eye-opening, troubling?
2. In your life what have been some of most memorable experiences you have had both giving and receiving. When you are the recipient of someone else's generosity how do you react? Are you uncomfortable? Humbled? Challenged?
3. Give an example of a time in your life where you gave sacrificially. How did your life change because of the action? How did the recipient act? Appreciative? Unappreciative? Would you give again?
4. What is the relationship between money, debt, desire, and your willingness to give sacrificially?
5. The Gospel, your heart, and your money are all tied together. How does your use of money reflect upon the Gospel?

Proclaim...Reach...Connect...Go
Living on Mission

1. Consider your current level of giving. Would the Macedonians consider your giving to be sacrificial and generous? If not, what steps can you take to give more generously?
2. In what ways could you (and the church) give financially in order to carry out a tangible movement of the Gospel in our community?
3. 'The Love of Money' abounds in the American Consumer Culture. Currently, financial difficulties abound both inside and outside of the church. How could 'Macedonian' giving impact the culture's perspective on money?

4. What tools and outlets can believers harness in order to help individuals who are struggling financially?
5. Take time this week to reflect upon your own life and your giving patterns. Is your giving consistent with Christ's command to "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you"?

COMMUNITY GROUPS – *Community Groups* are groups of people who come together on a weekly basis to promote significant Christian relationships that are centered around the study of God's Word (Hebrews 10:24-25 and Romans 8:29). Groups began for the fall semester last Sunday, August 29, 2010. Groups are available Sunday through Friday. Sign up outside of the theater – more information at www.martinsburgchurch.org.

VOLUNTEERING AT C@M - Be a part of what God is doing here at the church. Find a place to use your gifts and talents in the body. Volunteer teams include; sound, greeting, set-up, hospitality, children, community groups, communication, administrative, and C@M Kidz. For more information email contact@martinsburgchurch.org or call 304 596-9330.

...to proclaim the Gospel and reach those far from God.