



Connecting to Colonial's Covenant – 9
August 23, 2015

Pastor Phelps
I Cor. 9:7

COMMITMENT #9 CHEERFULLY CONTRIBUTING!

The second paragraph of the Covenant of Colonial Hills Baptist Church contains a very sensitive statement. It reads, “We engage . . . to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expanses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.” No doubt there are those who read this statement and respond, “This can’t be taken _____!” But II Corinthians 9:7 tells us that “cheerful giving” is a very serious matter. II Corinthians 9:7 teaches that God loves those who give _____. It is important for us to consider what it means to be a cheerful giver.

A CHEERFUL GIVER GIVES GENEROUSLY

It is amazing to note that in verses 5 and 6, the Spirit of God speaks of “bountiful” giving, reminding us that the harvest will yield liberally or sparingly depending upon the generosity of the giver. The cheerful giver is cheerful because he understands the principle of the _____ (Prov. 11:24-26). What ought we to expect to harvest?

- An indestructible _____ in heaven (Matt. 6:1-4, 19-21).
- An indescribable _____ in heaven (Luke 16:1-13).

A CHEERFUL GIVER GIVES WILLINGLY

There are three words in the context of II Corinthians 9:7 that are very important for those who would be “cheerful givers.” Let’s consider the words, “purposeth,” “grudgingly,” and “necessity.”

- To give “purposefully” teaches us that willing giving is not just done _____. Giving described here was first purposed in the heart. I Corinthians 16 teaches that giving should be deliberate and well-considered (see vs. 1-2).

- Willing giving is not done _____. This word describes that which is an annoyance or a grief. It should not be a pain to give!
- Willing giving is not “out of necessity.” Laws, duties, customs, and strict accountability tend to diminish the _____ of giving.

A CHEERFUL GIVER GIVES EXPECTANTLY

These verses are filled with a spirit of expectancy (8a, 9b, 10). This is not “prosperity theology” (i.e. “Giving in order to get”). The expectation described here rests upon the character of God (Phil. 4:19).

- We should be confident of God’s power to be _____ (8). It is a sad reality that many who have trusted God to provide for their eternal needs have no confidence in God’s power to provide for their earthly needs (Lk. 12:21-34).
- We should be confident of God’s promise to be _____ (9-10). The pages of God’s Word are filled with wonderful promises of God’s generosity to His people (Ps. 37:25; Luke 6:38; Prov. 3:9-10; Mal. 3:10).

A CHEERFUL GIVER GIVES THANKFULLY

As we review this passage we discover an overwhelming spirit of gratitude (v. 11). Lenki notes, “If every Christian knew what a shower of blessings he starts through giving, he would be like the Macedonians in 8:4, begging to let them give.”

- There is an _____ thanksgiving (12).
- There is a _____ thanksgiving (13-15).

A CHEERFUL GIVER GIVES CAREFULLY

In the Old Testament, gifts were brought to the Temple (Mal. 3). In the New Testament, the local church is to be a place where cheerful gifts are collected, because it is in the local church that careful stewardship can be provided. Let’s discover why:

- In the church needs can be met _____ (I Cor. 16:1).
- In the church needs can be met _____ (I Cor. 16:2).
- In the church needs can be met _____ (I Cor. 16:3-4).