

**“The Reason For Our Riches”**  
**2 Corinthians 9:6-11**

**Introduction:**

1. Every Year - Forbes Magazine:
  - Publishes A Detailed List:
    - Of The Richest People In The World!
      - They Are Described As “The Members Of The Three-Comma Club” - Which Means:
        - That They Are All **Billionaires!**
  - The List For 2018 Includes:
    - 2,208 Billionaires - Who Have A Combined Worth:
      - Of Over \$9 Trillion!
        - And That’s A Lot Of Money!
    - That’s Real Wealth - Or So It Seems!
      - But Listen To What Paul Tells Timothy:
        - In 1 Timothy 6:17 - “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in **uncertain riches**, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy!”
  - The Riches That Forbes Magazine Celebrates:
    - Are “Uncertain Riches!”
      - That Is - They Can Be Here Today:
        - And Gone Tomorrow!
2. But Remember What Jesus Taught:
  - In His Sermon On The Mount? - In Matthew 6:19-21:
    - Jesus Said - “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: / But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: / For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also!”
  - So - We See That:
    - There Are Earthly Riches:
      - And There Are Heavenly Riches!
    - There Are Riches That Are Uncertain & Corruptible:
      - And There Are Riches That Are Certain & Incorruptible!
    - So - It Is Clear That God Measures Wealth:
      - Quite Differently Than We Often Do!
        - But According To God’s Standard:
          - **Christians** Are The Richest People In The World!
  - In Fact - In The Verses We Will Look At This Morning:
    - From 2 Corinthians 9 - We Are Told That:
      - We Have Been “**Enriched** - In **Every** Thing!”
        - And Now - There Is A Reason For Our Riches As Christians!
3. So - If Your Not There Already - Please Open Your Bibles With Me:
  - To 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 - Where We Read - “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. / 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. / 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: / 9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. / 10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) / 11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God!”
  - Here - Paul Is Continuing To Encourage:
    - The Corinthian Christians:
      - To Give To The Special Collection:
        - For The “Poor Saints Which Are At Jerusalem!” (Romans 15:26)
    - This Was A Great Opportunity:
      - To Show Their Unity, Their Love & Their Service For Their Fellow Christians:
        - And Paul Told Them To Finally Finish The Offering:
          - With The Same Eagerness & Enthusiasm They Had Before!

- And The Key Reason Why They Could Do This:
  - We Find In 9:8 - It Was Because:
    - “God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work!”

4. This Morning - You Too Need To Remember:

- That - As A Christian / As A Child Of God:
  - You Are Rich!
    - Maybe Not According To The Way The World Measures Wealth!
      - But - According To The Way God Does - You Are Rich!
      - Because:
- The Root Of Your Riches:
  - Is God Himself - And His Abundant Grace!
    - According To 9:8 - It Is “God” Who “Is Able To Make All Grace Abound Toward you!”
  - This Means That **All** Of The Resources Of God:
    - Are Available To You:
      - If You Are His Child!
    - And His Resources Are:
      - Infinite & Inexhaustible!
  - Even As We Are Told In Philippians 4:19:
    - “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus!”
  - And So - As A Christian:
    - You Can Now Measure Your Wealth:
      - Not By What **You** Have:
        - But By What **God** Has!
  - So - Remember - If You Are A Christian:
    - You Are Rich!
      - But We Also Find In 9:8:
- The Reason For Your Riches!
  - It Is So - “That Ye . . . May Abound To Every Good Work!”
    - This Shows Us That The Riches We Have:
      - Are Not Necessarily Financial!
        - They Are The Resources Of God That Enable You To “Abound To **Every** Good Work!”
      - This Could Be Your Giving!
        - But It Includes All Of Your Activities & All Of Your Service For The Lord!
  - So - What We Discover Here:
    - Is That God Pours His Abundant Grace:
      - Into Your Life - So That You Might:
        - Pour It Back Out To Others!
          - This Is The Reason For Your Riches - Whatever Form They May Take!
  - Is This How You Look At What God Has Provided To You?
    - Are You Pouring **Out**:
      - What God Has Been Pouring **In**:
        - To Your Heart & Life?
    - This Is The True Measure Of Christian Wealth!
      - Not What You Have!
        - But How You Give!
          - This Is Why Paul Also Shares With Us:
- The Results Of Your Riches!
  - In 9:8 - God Pours Out The Riches Of His Grace To You:
    - So That You Might:
      - Be - “Always Having All Sufficiency In All Things!”
    - This Means That:
      - At All Times!
      - In All Things!
      - You Have All You Need!
        - For “Every Good Work!”

- This Means That:
  - Your Cup Will “Never Run Dry!”
  - **Even** As You Pour Out To Others What God Has Given To You!
  - But Even More:
- In 9:11 - God Reminds Us:
  - That We Are:
    - “Being Enriched In Every Thing To All Bountifulness!”
  - This Means That:
    - Even Though It May Not Always *Seem* Like It At The Time:
      - You Have All You Need:
        - In Order For You To Give & To Serve!
  - Of Course, This Does Not Always Mean:
    - Financial Giving:
      - Even As Peter - Acts 3:6 - “Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee!”
  - So It’s True - You Never Can “Out-Give God!”

5. And Now - Because Of These Truths:

- About The Root Of Your Riches:
  - And The Results Of Your Riches From God:
    - You Are Now Free To Focus Your Undivided Attention On The Reason For Your Riches:
      - 9:8 - “That Ye - May Abound To Every Good Work!”
- And In The Rest Of Our Verses This Morning:
  - We Find 4 Ways For You To “Abound To Every Good Work!”
  - As You Pour Out What God Has Poured In!

1. ***Pour Yourself Out – In A Bountiful Way!***

- According To The Principle You See:
  - In 9:6 - Where Paul Shares A Proverb About 2 Farmers:
    - 2 Different Sowers - “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully!”
  - The First Sower Is:
    - A Closed-Handed Sower!
      - That Is - “Tight Fisted” - He Sows “Sparingly” And In A “Miserly” & A “Half-Hearted” Way!
        - Now - We’re Not Sure Exactly Why This Farmer Sows His Seed In This Way!
          - It Could Be Because He’s Lazy! Greedy! Discouraged! We Just Don’t Know!
    - But No Matter The Reason:
      - The Principle Still Hold’s True!
        - “He Which Soweth Sparingly Shall Reap Also Sparingly!”
        - But - The Opposite Is Also True!
  - The Second Sower Is:
    - An Open-Handed Sower!
      - That Is - He Sows “Bountifully!”
        - And The Word Translated “Bountiful” Here Is The Same Word For “Blessing” That We Looked At Last Week In 9:5!
    - He Sows His Seed:
      - Based On Promise Of Great “Blessing!”
        - This Farmer Is Positive & Optimistic, And Sees This New Season Of Planting As A New Opportunity:
          - For A Bountiful Harvest!
    - And As A General Rule - He Is Right!
      - “He Which Soweth Bountifully Shall Reap Also Bountifully!”
- And This Principle:
  - That Works In The Natural World:
    - Is Also At Work In The Spiritual World!
      - There Is No Reason For You To Sow “Sparingly”
        - Because God Is The One Who Provides All The Seed You Need!
  - Instead - You Can Sow & Give & Serve:
    - In A Bountiful Way - ***With All You’ve Got!***

- This Is Why Paul Tells Us Further In Galatians 6:9 - “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not!”
- Are You Sowing & Sharing:
  - What God Has Given You:
  - In A Bountiful Way?

## 2. ***Pour Yourself Out – From A Willing Heart!***

- According To The Pattern You See:
  - In 9:7 - “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver!”
    - This Is Always How God Wants His People To Give!
      - Out Of A Willing Heart!
        - “As He Purposeth In His Heart!”
      - And God Is After Your Heart! So:
- Do Not Give Or Serve:
  - From The Pain Of Loss!
    - Or “Grudgingly” - Reluctantly - Regretfully!
- Do Not Give Or Serve:
  - From The Pressure Of Others!
    - Or “Of Necessity” - Compulsion - Feeling Like It Is A “Have To” Instead Of A “Get To!”
    - Instead:
- Give And Serve:
  - For The Pleasure Of God!
    - “For God Loveth A Cheerful Giver!”
  - This Means That:
    - “God Blesses, Loves, Delights In, The Joyous Giver!” (Hodge)
- And So - As Christians:
  - Who Have Been Enriched By The Grace Of God:
    - Beyond Measure - We Need To - “Feel It Is An Honor And A Joy To Give” And To Serve The Lord! (Hodge)
  - Are You Giving & Serving:
    - The Lord Willingly:
      - And From Your Heart?

## 3. ***Pour Yourself Out – In A Christlike Way!***

- According To The Provision You Have:
  - Found In 9:9 - Which Is A Direct Quote From Psalm 112:9 - “As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever!”
    - Now - The Entire Psalm From Which Paul Quotes:
      - Describes - 112:1 - “The Man That Feareth The Lord!”
      - And What That Man Is Like & What That Man Does!
- Now - We Can Look At Psalm 112:
  - As Well As Paul’s Quote In 2 Corinthians - In Two Ways!
    - First - It Describes What:
      - Every Christian Aspires To!
      - But Even More:
    - Second - It Describes What:
      - Jesus Christ Alone Has Achieved!
        - And Now, He Becomes Our Example & The Only One Who Can Enable Us To Become Like Him!
  - And So This Quote In 2 Corinthians 9:9:
    - Shows Us How Jesus Christ Himself:
      - Has Poured Out His Grace To Us:
        - He Has Done So:
- Fully!
  - “He Hath Dispersed Abroad!”
    - He Is Like The Second Sower In 9:6 - He Has Scattered The Seed Of His Grace:
      - With An Open Hand To All!

- Matthew 5:45 - "He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust!"
- But Even More - He Has Poured Out His Grace To Us:
- Freely!
  - "He Hath Given To The Poor!"
    - His Grace Is So Valuable & Rich:
      - It Cannot Be Earned! It Cannot Be Bought! It Can Only Be Offered & Given!
  - And This Is What Jesus Christ:
    - Has Done For Us - Through The Gospel!
      - Remember 8:9 - "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich!"
        - This Is Where It Must Begin!
  - Without Christ - You Are:
    - And Will Forever Remain Poor:
      - Spiritually Poor And Lost Forever Because Of Your Sin!
  - But Through Christ - And Faith In Him:
    - You Can Become Rich:
      - Spiritually And Eternally Rich!
        - Because Jesus Humbled Himself To Become Poor Like You & Like Me - And To Sacrifice His Own Life For Your Sin!
  - But When Jesus Came Back To Life:
    - According To His Promise - 3 Days Later:
      - He Did So, So That He Could Continue To Pour Out His Grace:
- Faithfully!
  - To All Those Who Believe In Him
    - "His Righteousness Remaineth For Ever!"
  - Because Jesus Now Lives, He Can Remain Forever Faithful:
    - To His Word & To His People!
      - O - "What A Wonderful Savior Is Jesus My Lord!"
    - Is He Your Savior & Lord Today?
- If So - Then Jesus Christ:
  - Can Enable You To Give & To Serve Others ***Like Him!***
    - Fully! Freely! Faithfully!
      - According To His Own Unending Supply Of Grace!
  - Are You Living & Giving:
    - In A Christlike Way Today?

#### 4. ***Pour Yourself Out – In A Dependent Way!***

- According To The Prayer We Find In:
  - 9:10 - "Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness!"
    - Other Translations Of 9:10 May Read A Bit Differently, But This Verse Is Probably Best Read As A Prayer!
      - Paul Is Demonstrating, By Spontaneous Prayer For The Corinthians, That In Order For Us To Give & Serve:
        - In A Bountiful Way!
        - From A Willing Heart!
        - And In A Christlike Way!
      - We Must Depend Completely Upon The Lord!
  - After All - God Is - According To 9:10:
    - "He That Ministereth - Or Provides - Seed To The Sower & Bread For Food!"
      - This Means That:
- God Is The Source:
  - Of All You Need / All You Have / And Even All You Give!
    - This Is Why You Don't Have To Be Like:
      - The First Sower In 9:6 - Because:
        - God Is The Source Of All Your Seed!
  - God Is The One:

- From Whom “All Your Blessings Flow!”
  - As We Sang Earlier - He Is The “Fount Of Every Blessing!”
  - But This Also Means That:
- God Is The Sustainer:
  - Of Your Life!
    - He Also Provides Your “Bread For Food!”
    - So - You Don’t Just Need The Lord:
      - For The Grain That You Might Use To Make Your Own Bread!
  - You Need The Lord:
    - For The Water & The Oil & The Fuel & The Fire & Even The Hands & The Strength That You Need:
      - To Make Your “Bread For Food!”
- And So - You Must Never Forget:
  - That You Are Completely Dependant On The Lord
    - For Any Growth:
      - You Might Have - And:
    - For Any Fruit:
      - You Might Bear!
  - God Alone Is The One Who Can:
    - “Multiply Your Seed Sown” And:
      - “Increase The Fruits Of Your Righteousness!” (9:10)
  - So - Psalm 37:5 - “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass!”

### **Conclusion:**

1. This Is How You - As A Christian:
  - Can - 9:8 - “Abound To Every Good Work!”
    - You Need To Give & Serve & Pour Yourself Out:
      - In A Bountiful Way!
      - From A Willing Heart!
      - In A Christlike Way!
      - Yet - Always Dependant On The Lord!
  - But You Can Only Do This:
    - When You Remember:
      - Just How Rich You Truly Are In Christ!
2. Are You Pouring Back Out:
  - What God Has Been Pouring In:
    - To Your Heart & Life?
3. George Muller - Who Lived From 1805-1898:
  - Was A Man Who Never Forgot:
    - Just How Much Grace God Had Poured Out To Him:
      - To Save Him!
        - And So - He Sought To Pour Himself Out, For The Lord And For Others!
    - And One Of The Greatest Burdens He Had:
      - Was For The Orphans In England!
        - In Fact - He Was Eventually Able To Build Five Large Orphan Houses & Cared For Over 10,000 Orphans During His Lifetime!
        - And Yet - When He Died - He Was Penniless!
  - How Could This Be?
    - As God Poured Out His Grace To George Muller:
      - George Muller Poured It Back Out:
        - To Others!
    - George Muller Never Asked Anyone:
      - Directly For Money!
        - And - He Never Took A Salary In The Last 68 Years Of His Ministry!
      - Instead - He Trusted God To Put In People’s Hearts To Send Him What He Needed!
        - He Never Took Out A Loan & He Never Went Into Debt!
          - Yet, Neither He Nor A Single One Of The Orphans He Cared For Ever Went Hungry!

- It Has Been Estimated That:
  - George Muller Had Prayed In More Than \$150 Million, In Today's Money!
  - But He Gave It All Back In Service For The Lord!
  - And This Is The True Measure Of Christian Wealth!
  - Not What You Have!
  - But How You Give!

4. And This Is The Reason:
- For Your Riches As Well!
  - To Pour Back Out What God Himself Has Poured In!
  - While You Rely On His Infinite & Inexhaustible Supply Of Grace!

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