

ABOUNDING IN EVERY GOOD WORK

II Corinthians 9:8

January 8, 2023

Abundantly satisfied under his wing
My treasures are drawn from the stores of the King
They never shall fail me while life passes by
His riches in glory shall be my supply – Eliza Hewitt (1901)

Introduction:

Be encouraged and emboldened knowing that God our Provider (Jehovah Jireh) has already proclaimed for you this year that rather than merely coping with life's demands, His heart is for you to ABOUND in EVERY GOOD WORK.

- What are you in possession of at this moment? What do you own? And will those possessions be enough to get the job done in 2023?
- The number of things in this world that do not belong to you is, Biblically speaking, _____. You own none of it. Every single possession of every variety in this world belongs to the Creator of the universe.
 - Psalm 24:1 – The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,
 - I Chronicles 29:11 – ...all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.
 - Psalm 50:10 – For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.
- But God, the Owner of it all, has taken what rightfully and truly belongs to Him, and has entrusted some of those things to you. This is where we get the principal of _____.
 - A steward manages something that does not belong to him.
 - Christian Worldview → managing God's _____, God's way, for God's _____
 - How are you doing in your stewardship?
 - I Corinthians 4:2 – Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.
 - Romans 3:23 – for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Main:

- When it comes to financial stewardship, Scripture comprehensively addresses this across both the OT and NT.
 - **DEBT** → Psalm 37:21 – The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives;
 - **BUDGETING** → Luke 14:28 – For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?
 - **HONEST, DELIBERATE INCOME** → Proverbs 13:11 – Wealth obtained by fraud will dwindle, but whoever earns it through labor will multiply it.
- Every financial decision we make involves to some extent the idea of _____ money from one location to another.
 - The English word, “transfer” comes from the Latin words “trans” (across, beyond, through) and “ferre” (to bear, to carry)
- II Corinthians 9:6-11 discusses the spiritual discipline of giving by clarifying the _____ in which we transfer our financial gifts and the result in our hearts of these transfers.
 - Giving is not just something that you _____, but it is something that you are to _____. Giving is a way of life for the Christian who understands the grace of God (see I Cor. 15:10a).

- While the immediate context of this passage addresses financial giving, note the wider truth implied in the statement “ _____ good work” in vs. 8 (*See John 10:11 and Luke 9:24*).
- **Key Point:** We are called to transfer what we would wrongfully claim as _____ and put it into the hands of God because it is rightfully _____, so that He can use it for his much higher _____.
- Three reasons to generously, willfully, and cheerfully transfer the resources that you steward according to the leading of the Holy Spirit...
 1. **Transfer is _____ because God is a faithful supplier**
 - *Philippians 4:19* – And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
 - *Psalms 23:1* – The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want...
 2. **Transfer is _____ because there is a promised harvest of righteousness**
 - *Hebrews 12:11* – For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
 3. **Transfer is _____ to God because man is hoping not in himself but in the sufficiency of Christ.**
 - *II Corinthians 12:9-10* – But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
- How does this passage in 2 Corinthians point us toward Jesus today?
 - He approached his life as a faithful steward, considering not his own interests but those of His Father.
 - He fulfilled the work that God call Him to do, not according to his will but to the Father’s, even to death on a cross (Matt. 26:39). Jesus was _____ in his giving. He gave everything...just as the Father did in sending him.
 - *Romans 8:32* – He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?
 - Jesus laid his life down for the purpose of transfer, but not for _____.
 - *Colossians 1:13-14* – He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Conclusion:

- The demands of life are without a doubt burdensome. This year will not be without its moments of trial and struggle. But for every good work, God has promised to you and me today that his provision is adequate. We need no resource.
- How does the sufficiency of being IN CHRIST make it possible to abound in every good work this year?
- How do we appropriate (take hold of) God’s limitless grace, so that we can be fully sufficient to abound in every good work?
- In what areas of my life is God calling me to look not only to my own interests but also to the interests of others (Phil. 2:4), and what does abundance mean in the doing of those good works?

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