

## WHAT WE ALL NEED and THE GLORY OF GOD

2 Corinthians 8-9; Ephesians 4:28; Acts 20:34-35

Giving in America

What is money for, anyway?

- “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.” The Apostle Paul (Eph 4:28)
- “You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” The Apostle Paul (Acts 20:34-35)
- “The final purpose of having money is to give.” –James C. Petty in *Act of Grace*

What does giving have to do with **grace**? (2 Corinthians 8-9)

1. Called. Giving is called “this act of grace (8:6,7,19)
2. Compulsion? No compulsion (8:8, 9:7-8)

- Question: What about the tithe under the law?

3. Christ! The gospel itself is about giving (8:9)

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Reflect upon this quote: “The final purpose of having money is to give.” See Eph 4:28, Acts 20:34-35.
  - How is this different than what we typically think about money?
2. How is giving connected to the gospel? (2 Cor 8:9)
  - How was Jesus “rich”?
3. “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:7)
  - How can you apply this today?