



## LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

### “The Blessed Life”

**Ps. James Lowe and Ps. Robert Morris (video) – 10/23/2016**

*“As it is written, ‘He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.’ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!”*

2 Corinthians 9:5-15

*“But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also.”*

2 Corinthians 8:7

#### **WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.**

- What do you consider to be the biggest blessing in your life?
- What is something you could do differently to be a blessing to others or change how you sow on a daily basis?

#### **WORD (10-15 minutes)**

**Sermons can be heard online at [bethelbrentwood.org/media](http://bethelbrentwood.org/media).**

#### **Historical Context**

- Macedonians were poor and under Roman oppression.
- In Jerusalem, on the Day of Pentecost, a divine revelation and experience (3,000 saved), the people stayed and were doing life together, going house to house, hosting small groups, but they were in a financial challenge.
- Giving to the Jerusalem church in a time of financial hardship so that the message of the Gospel could spread.
- Churches generally gather and collect resources to get out to people, but the people in the church were in need themselves.
- They became Pilgrims for the faith and they were rejected because of their choice to follow Christ. They were being taught about their superior strength found in Christ.

## **Keys to the Blessed Life: SOW, GROW, KNOW**

### **1. SOW**

1. A blessed life always involves sowing
  - a. If you want what God has promised you, you have to participate in sowing
  - b. Be a leader in your giving; excel and have grace in your ministry of giving
2. Whatever you sow you shall then reap
  - a. Seed eventually turns into a harvest (apple seed becomes apple tree)
  - b. Sows sparingly, reaps sparingly...
3. God is more faithful than man to grow whatever you sow
  - a. Providing all sufficiency at all times; don't let a lack of faith keep you from giving cheerfully and generously
  - b. Giving is a natural response of love
4. Enrichment in every way
  - a. The reason we are enriched is not to get everything we ever imagined or dreamed of
  - b. We give so that we can be a distribution center; getting help to the world

### **2. GROW**

1. The Gospel is what causes you to GROW
  - a. Transforms your heart; causes you to give up all of yourself
  - b. Our attitude is more important than the amount we give; it's what you give from the resources you have that God is paying attention to
2. Foundation of wanting to SOW and give for the right reasons and from the right place
  - a. Our offerings and sowing are to be understood as a Thanksgiving to God
  - b. The reason we grow is to be generous, NOT to get everything we ever wanted right now
3. For everything that is sown, there is a supernatural growth (apple seed becomes apple tree)
  - a. When, where, and how much to give? God says, "I'll tell you..."

### **3. KNOW**

1. We need a deeper revelation of God and His character
  - a. We can gain this revelation by giving up everything
  - b. Our only motivation should be doing things for Christ, so that we ourselves and others may know Him better
2. You get to KNOW something about God when you give
  - a. It changes you and it changes the lives of others
  - b. As you bless others, you will be blessed
3. We must have a foundation of Christ, acceptance of Him as our Lord and Savior
  - a. You have to accept Jesus to comprehend the principle of sowing
  - b. To KNOW Him, you must accept him
4. Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift to us, His son, Jesus Christ

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.**

- Why do you SOW? What is your motivation for SOWING? How could you be SOWING differently in your life?
- What prohibits you from KNOWING the greatest revelation, realizing the inexpressible gift of Jesus?

**PRAYER (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Pray that you will excel in the grace of giving, that God will help you become more passionate and generous in your daily sowing.
- Pray for a greater revelation of the inexpressible gift of Jesus and a deeper revelation of who God is and an understanding of His character as applied to sowing.