

GROWTH GROUPS

December 18, 2011

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Conversation Starter –

As we did in the service on Sunday, make a list of the most precious gifts one can receive in this life. After the list is complete, spend some time talking about what makes these so valuable.

Understanding –

The Apostle Paul is collecting a financial gift from the churches (church in Macedonia, Corinth and others) to bless and support the “mother church” in Judea and Jerusalem. The church in Jerusalem has been severely impoverished because of persecution.

1. Verses 10-11 tell us that God is the one who has made us rich in numerous ways; He is the supplier. He has done this so that we might be generous with our “wealth” and, as a result, God will be thanked and glorified as the primary giver. In what ways has God richly blessed you and how do or could you use those “riches” to bless others. *(if group members are uncomfortable talking about themselves it may be fun to have group members point out the “riches” of others in the group.)*
2. Verse 13 tells us that there is a correlation between the “confession of the gospel” we make and the “obedience” we practice. What is this correlation? What happens when both are appropriately present? What happens when we confess faith in Christ but are not obedient by the way we live our lives?
3. Verse 15 refers to an indescribable gift that is evidenced in part by the prayers and affection of those who are blessed by one’s generosity (v.14). This gift is the privilege God gives His people to play a significant role in the eternal, redemptive plan God is playing out amongst people. Pastor Clint asked us to think about our funeral and what role we would have played in people’s lives as evidenced by their prayers, presence and stories. What did you think about? What would you hope to hear? What changes might you make now in order to make this image become a reality?

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