

**APOSTOLIC ADVICE**  
**JULY 2009**  
***"APOSTOLIC ABUNDANCE"***

Paul's revelation of God's work in Christ included a revelation of financial abundance as part of the plan of redemption. His preaching and teaching included our deliverance from lack as surely as our deliverance from sickness and all other consequences of the fall of man in Adam. Paul's sweeping statement of redemption in Galatians 3:13-14 released the "blessing of Abraham" upon all believers in Christ (Gal.3:27-29). Abrahams blessing was all inclusive spiritually, physically, socially and financially.

Apostolic doctrine (Acts 2:42) was the message of God's grace toward man thru Jesus Christ, and included "financial grace" as part of the blessing. "And God is able to make ALL grace abound toward you; that you, ALWAYS having ALL sufficiency in ALL things may abound to every good work" (2 Cor.9:8). We are told to "grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ" (2 Peter 3:18), this of course would include growing in the grace and knowledge of financial abundance. It was part of the apostolic teaching to destroy a "lack mentality" in the many new converts since so many of them were slaves ,or from a lower economic class. Christ also drew the rich to himself (Luke 8:1-3) and gave many teachings on wealth creation and management (Matt.25).

"Giving" was the "key word" used by both Jesus and Paul in relation to financial increase, and "generosity" was a spiritual virtue that was extolled very highly using God Himself as the Supreme model, "Now thanks be unto God for his indescribable gift" (2 Cor.9:15). When Paul conducted the Ephesians Leadership Conference (Acts 20:17; 28-35), he concluded his remarks with a "stewardship tip" to the Elders that was a golden nugget of revelation on the grace of giving, "It is more blessed to give than it is to receive", vs.35. This is because when we "receive" a gift from someone our need is met, but when we "give", the greater blessing is a 'spiritual one" whereby "more grace" is released into our lives. In 2 Cor.9:8, Paul said, "God is ABLE to make all grace abound toward us", indicating that it is not automatic for a believer to have "grace for abundance" in their lives. But in the preceding verses 6-8, he tells us the key to releasing the abundance grace of God into our lives, "He that SOWS BOUNTIFULLY, shall reap also BOUNTIFULLY". As we increase our giving we increase in the grace of God in our lives that will cause "men to give unto our bosom" as well. That grace will manifest in the "knowledge of Christ" the "anointed one" in the form of "witty inventions" and all forms of wealth producing ideas.

The proper management of resources was an important teaching of the apostolic church as they matured in the grace of God, so that abundant material wealth could be distributed as everyone prospered, and the Kingdom of God could expand rapidly to the whole world. This of course was the motive for the money. We are seeing the "money message" restored to the church today thru apostolic teaching and modeling by apostolic leaders in the church and marketplace.

*Dr. John*