

I. Giving is the most important use of wealth

"You will be _____ in every way to be generous in every way" [11]

A. We need to be ready to give

"Arrange the gift in _____" [5]

B. Problem: we are often not ready

1. We're on _____

2. We are not _____

We are fearful, anxious--prone to _____ rather than share

3. We are self-centered

II. How do we get ready to give?

A. We give ourselves first to the Lord

B. We call upon the Lord for _____

Giving is about grace from beginning to end

C. Grace begets cheerful giving – *"God loves a cheerful giver" [7]*

"Cheerfulness of heart is the mark of _____" [Josef Pieper]

1. Cheer is pivotal in giving to those in need

"You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land."

[Deuteronomy 15:11]

2. Cheer is pivotal in funding places of _____

a. The _____ in Exodus 35 and 36

b. The _____ in Second Chronicles 24

c. _____

3. Grace is always _____

It is _____ – tangible--down-to-earth

D. We imagine--we _____ – the grace to come

"This is a great opportunity to live out our faith, closer to actual needs. I think our church's best and most useful days are ahead." [Ed Banks]

1. We step into _____

"The joy comes from participating with God in the building of his kingdom, knowing that it will last forever." [Randy Alcorn]

"Whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." [6b]

"The liberal soul shall be made _____" [Proverbs 11:25]

2. We bring glory to God--giving is a direct _____ to our chief end

"They will glorify God because of your willingness to give" [13b]

"The gifts you sent [are] a _____ offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God" [Philippians 4:18]

III. The Indescribable Gift

The most obvious feature of the God the Father is His _____

All Christian giving is carried out in the light of this Gift