

# **Below the Surface: Don't Miss Out**

## **Sermon Notes**

**March 18, 2018**

2 Corinthians 8-9

Greed corrupts and greed is the cause of poor teaching on giving.

God loves to bless his people!

2 Corinthians 8:1-12

Author is the Apostle Paul

He had Influence and familiarity with many churches.

The Macedonian church has been given grace by God.

Grace = charis (greek) = “things which produce well being”, grace, favor, beauty, thankfulness, gratitude, delight, kindness, expression of favor, good turn, benefit.

English definition “the free and unmerited favor of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings”.

In the midst of severe trial and extreme poverty rich generosity rose up due to their overflowing joy.

Lessons for all of us:

- Our circumstances don't matter – no matter what we are going through, we can and should participate.
- How much we make doesn't matter – none of us are in extreme poverty. We can and should participate.
- Our state of mind matters – are you overflowing with the joy of your salvation? Are you focused on what God has given you, or what you lack compared to others?
  - Where does the joy come from?
    - 1 Peter 1:1-9
    - Our joy comes from our salvation, the forgiveness of our sins
- We have no excuses for not participating, God calls us to obey him joyfully in light of what he has done for us.

Three points from Corinth:

- The use of the word grace is intentional. This is a simultaneous work, as we give God gives us grace and blesses us.
- As a church we need to be about more than just ourselves.
- We should give in accordance with what we have, not what we don't.

2 Corinthians 9:1-8

- The generosity of the Corinthian church inspired the Macedonians. Accountability is good for all of us.
- We need to be strategic and plan ahead to give, not be haphazard.
- Sow generously.
- God loves a cheerful giver. He wants your heart. He wants your love. He wants your devotion.
- Create a lifestyle of generosity.

#### Closing thoughts

- Our situations do not matter
- Our income doesn't matter.
- Give based on what we have, not comparatively.
- Sow generously because God wants to bless you generously.
- Give cheerfully.
- Give out of the overabundance of joy that comes from knowing you have been redeemed!