INTRODUCTION

Few things in life generate more power than money. Seeking it, having it, using it, needing it … all of these are powerful drives in the human heart. And while money can be a wonderful tool in supporting the mission of Christ through the Church, its pull on the heart can also make it one of life’s most powerful idols. This weekend we take an honest, direct, and – hopefully! – sanctifying look, at the power of money and how the exercise of generosity can help free us to seek the Kingdom mission first.

Jesus tells a story:  Matthew 19:16-26

Why We Give:  6 reasons to support Grace Baptist Church financially.

We give …

1. … because giving is both commanded and commended by God.

2. … because giving is an element of worship and devotion to God.

3. … because giving demonstrates our dependence upon God.

4. … because giving provides a way to meet the needs of others.

5. … because giving is partnership with Christ in His mission through the Church to the world.

6. … because giving protects our hearts from the temptations and snares of wealth.

“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,” 1Timothy 6: 17, 18
Reflect on the six reasons to be generous with your finances this week. Ask the Lord to help you grow in your financial generosity. If you already practice faithful financial generosity, pray about engaging someone you could disciple in this matter.

**We Give Because Giving Is Both Commanded and Commended by God.**
Read Luke 12:41-44, Philippians 1:27, and James 1:17. What does it mean to be a good steward? How does understanding that we do not own anything impact the way we should think about our money and resources? How do the words Paul uses in Philippians shape the way you think about money?

**We Give Because Giving Is an Element of Worship and Devotion to God.**
Read Philippians 4:18 and 2 Corinthians 8:1-7. What do we learn from the posture of the Corinthians and the Philippians? Do you see your giving as an element of worship and devotion to God? Why or why not? Is God glorified in the gift or the heart that brings the gift?

**We Give Because Giving Demonstrates Our Dependence upon God.**
Read Matthew 6:19-21 and Matthew 19:16-26. Does the way you steward your finances reflect a heart that is more concerned with the pleasures of this world or God’s Kingdom? How does the love of riches reflect an idolatrous heart? How can you protect yourself from falling into this form of idolatry?

**We Give Because Giving Provides a Way to Meet the Needs of Others.**
Read Acts 2:43-44 and Acts 4:32-35. How often do you actively think and pray for opportunities to meet the needs of others financially? What are some financial sacrifices you could make to help someone in need?

**We Give Because Giving Is Partnership with Christ in His Mission through the Church to the World.**
Read 1 Corinthians 9:7-14, Galatians 6:6, and Philippians 4:14-16. Do you see your financial stewardship as an integral aspect of God’s great salvation plan? How do these passages help illustrate this reality? How could you meet the needs of those who care for your soul in ways that are not just financial?

**We Give Because Giving Protects Our Hearts from the Temptations and Snares Associated with Wealth.**
Read 1 Timothy 6:9-19. In what way does being financially generous help fight against temptation? What is the temptation that we are fighting against? How have these six points helped you think differently about financial generosity? Who could you share this news with?

If you have any questions or need additional resources, email Pastor David: david.hegg@gracebaptist.org