



# The Federated Church of Hyannis

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**Reverend Derek L. White, Pastor**

## **Weekly Message from the Pastor and Sermon Notes for November 7, 2021**

Happy Veterans Day this week to all who have served. I will be at the ceremony on the Village Green at 10:15 AM on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Please say thank you to our veterans.

Pastor, Rev. Derek L. White

### **Sermon: “Make Me A Steward of Your Treasure, Part 4”**

**Scripture: 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthian 8:1-9**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Generosity and grace. For several weeks I have been preaching on the message of Stewardship, and I recognize that I have been mostly preaching to the choir. I want to recognize your faithfulness in coming every Sunday, and for faithfully supporting the ministry entrusted to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I recognize that one should seek to be humble before the Lord. We often do not give recognition for doing what is good and right, that which is expected of us all. But every now and then it is good to acknowledge the acts of faith as a testimony of what is good and pleasing to God.

#### **PART 1**

Paul in his letter to Corinth recognizes the good works of the churches in Macedonia. Based on the example of the churches in Macedonia, Paul urges that all churches should excel in this grace of giving. He shares how this church, made up of individuals in severe poverty, experienced an overwhelming joy and because of this gave in grace generously.

They saw their giving as an opportunity to share in the ministry of the saints. Many people when they find a good cause to give to, often support it generously. There is a sense of pride in supporting good works.

## **PART 2**

A couple months ago a person came to me who did not have a lot of resources. They wanted to know a good charity that they could support. They didn't have a lot, but they felt they could give a little in support. So I talked with them about some good organizations that I know that do good work.

I felt very blessed after meeting with this person. They didn't have a lot to give in amount, but they were excited to know that they had the ability to give a little and it would still bless others. They had the joy of being generous in grace and sharing in the ministry of the saints.

## **PART 3**

I know this week we will celebrate Veterans Day. A veteran is a veteran regardless if it was 1 day of military service or 20 years of military service. Military service is not for everyone. About 1% of our population serves in the military today. Military service requires a person to give a lot. It is the type of service commitment that means one is willing to give everything they have, to include sacrificing their life if necessary.

Anyone here who is a military spouse or a military child knows the type of sacrifice that is required of those who serve in the military and their families. It is a proud experience to give in that kind of way. That kind of giving is an example of what it means to give.

## **CONCLUSION**

What Paul is getting at in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthian 8:1-9 is that there are different kinds of giving. Paul recognized that everyone in the church should give, and most do give. He highlights the churches in Macedonia because they gave out of joy, taking the little they had and being generous with it.

For several weeks I have shared on the practice of tithing, which promotes equality and equity within the Church. Everyone should share fairly in the responsibility of the ministry of the church. No recognition should be needed for doing what is right because that is what is expected of all. Paul recognized the churches in Macedonia because they went above and beyond what was expected of all. They gave generously with overwhelming gratitude in their hearts.

What Paul is really focusing on in this letter is the joy this church had in sharing in the ministry of the saints with their giving. When we give above and beyond what is expected of us, it should come from a place of overwhelming joy and gratitude. May the example of the churches in Macedonia serve to remind us of what that looks like today.