

Deane Parish Church w/b Sunday 12th February 2017
The grace of giving - 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

Giving and good stewardship of the material things that God has entrusted to us are a core part of Christian discipleship, which is why from time to time we cover them in the teaching & study programme. For many however, this subject can be difficult – for various reasons. Please be sensitive to this in any group discussion time.

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.*

Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 6)

*literally 'mammon' = money/wealth personified

'For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.'

The Apostle Paul writing to Timothy (1Tim 6)

'The problem with money is that we think we own it...'

Nicky Gumbel in *Challenging Lifestyle*

1. Taking each of the above in turn, think about / discuss in your group how they can help us to have a Biblical attitude towards money.

2. *"We shouldn't preach about money in Sunday services... it puts off visitors"*. Does it?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

3. Four times in this passage, Paul uses the word **grace**. Consider each mention in turn and what it says to us about giving.

4. How is **giving** to the gospel work of a church linked to a person's **vision** for the gospel work of that church?

5. How then should we responsibly decide just how much money to give to the work of the Gospel through Deane Parish Church?

And something to think about during the week: When you are with the Lord in Paradise and your *Last Will and Testament* is being read on earth... how much of God's money does God's work get?