2 Corinthians 8:1-9

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in His kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches. You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty He could make you rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty He could make you rich.

Series Goal

To call out spiritual problems in our culture that are wreaking havoc on our mental health! Then, from a pastor’s perspective, equip you with the spiritual truths to beat back the despair and anxiety of life that is intensified during the holidays.

- 1 in 5 US adults experience mental illness each year
- 746,000 adults in KY have a mental health condition
- Percentages of adults with mild, moderate, or severe symptoms of both anxiety and depression are highest among adults ages 18–29
- 64% of people w/mental illness say the holidays make things worse
- 3 in 5 Americans feel their mental health is negatively impacted by the holidays

Week One - Spiritual Over Secular

Week Two - Self-Denial Over Self-Indulgence

Week Three - Meaning Over Meh

Week Four - Gospel Over Grief

Most of what our culture celebrates during Christmas has nothing to do with Jesus or what his birthday actually stands for. Rather, the Christmas season has become a liturgy for exorbitant self-indulgence. It forms us in greed, consumerism, materialism, gluttony, envy, and ultimately discontentment.

BEAUTY & ALCOHOL

"What is the most disgusting, exorbitant, excessive thing people are doing today during Christmas that illustrates American greed?"

LUXURY ADVENT CALENDAR

Digital Ad Spending

2015 - $160B

2019 - $299B

2021 - $491B

2024 - $740B

The Gospel of the Shelf-Elfs?

Be good and you will get more stuff.

1 Americans 3:16

“Go Jesus! It’s your birthday!
Daddy needs a new iPhone!”

Mental/Emotional Manifestations of Greed

-Pride

-Fear

-Sloth

-Discontentment

-Envy

-Addiction

Luke 12:29-33

And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for His kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

How to be wealthy? (1 Tim 6:6-10)

Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

The standard of living for contentment is “Enough”.

"Enough" is way less than "More", but it is also enough.

Social Comparison Theory

We have a natural tendency to compare ourselves with those above or below us depending on which direction benefits us in any given moment.

Mt 5:48 - But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

1 Tim 6:8 - So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

How to be rich? (1 Tim 6:17-19)

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

Love the 'Ville Eve Offerings

2015 - $230,197

2016 - $311,939

2017 - $797, 305

2018 - $1,045,531

2019 - $1,207,908

2020 - $1,599,592

2021 - $1,723,210

2022 - $1,781,777

2023 - $2,068,444

***** 2024 Goal? $2,200,000 *****

Luke 19:8-10

Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!” Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.

Connection of Our Deep Drives to Surface Idols

Power — Work

Approval — Social

Comfort — Self Medication

Control — Politics

2 Corinthians 8:9

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