



Leader

10/16 - 2 Corinthians 9:8-15

Theology Refresher - "God is Unchangeable"

God is unchangeable in the ways the Scriptures tell us he is unchangeable; God is unchangeable in his being, attributes, purposes, and promises. Our beings will change and our attributes will change. God, on the other hand, will stay the same forever (Grudem).

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How is your walk with the Lord? Did you have any opportunities to share the Lord with anyone?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement? How can we pray, encourage, and show love to them?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue]

2. Read our primary text. Verse 8-9 alludes to the eternality of righteous acts such as generosity. Why do you think this is so?

Acts of righteousness such as generosity originate from and are sustained by the Lord's righteousness. When we participate in the will of God, we share in His eternal glory.

3. Verse 10 contains a promise. What is that promise? What happens when we trust and act in accordance with this promise?

The promise is that God will use his people and their resources as instruments of his grace for the salvation of others. When we exercise the gift of generosity, God will increase our joy and thanksgiving, thus increasing our harvest of righteousness.

4. In verse 13, Paul reminds the Corinthians of what happens when believers submit to their confession of Jesus Christ. What does he say will happen if they are submissive to their gospel confession?

Others will see and approve and glorify God because of these acts of grace that come from God.

5. In light of these truths we have studied, how does one who struggles with generosity begin to surrender the stronghold of greed? What are some practical ways you have discovered?
 One of the best ways to combat greed is through small acts of generosity. [Examples: Leave a server a larger than expected tip, buy someone coffee, pick up the tab when dining with friends, begin tithing a percentage of your income to the church, instead of selling something...give it away, carry \$20 in your wallet with the expectation to give it away, carry grocery gift cards to give to poor, etc.]
6. For those who have kids, how do we best display generosity to our kids? What are some of the ways you teach them generosity?
 [Dialogue] - Our actions speak louder than our words. If we are generous towards others with our finances and our time, our kids will take notice and begin to imitate what they have witnessed.
7. How does this text challenge you? How does it affect your daily life?
 [Dialogue]
8. How would you briefly summarize this passage? How might you share this passage/truth with someone else? A child? A family member?
 [Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- How are we doing as a group with the Great Commission?
 - Is there anyone that you need to invite to church or this group?
 - Is there anyone who needs to hear what we learned today in God's word?
 - Does anyone need a "refresher" on how to share the gospel?

PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Without getting too specific, is there anything you want to repent of before the group?
 [apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger]
- Let's confess our shortcomings to the Lord and pray what we have learned in God's word.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible (Crossway)
- Grudem, Wayne A. *Christian Beliefs: twenty basics every christian should know*. Edited by Elliot Grudem. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005, pg. 24-25.