

THERE'S MORE TO MINISTRY THAN MEETS THE EYE:
HOW TO THINK ABOUT MONEY

Introduction: Paul continues to explain true ministry and real spirituality to the Corinthians, but he shifts his commentary to one of the stickiest subjects of all: money. The truth he teaches is, to say the least, very challenging.

- v.1 (1) Don't think you are the only one giving.
- v.2-4 (2) True wealth is measured in terms of "liberality" -- which causes your resources to overflow their natural limits.
- v.4 (3) Giving is the easiest and least costly way to participate in ministry.
- v.5 (4) When you give to people/ministry you are giving to God.
- v.7-8 (5) Generosity and giving money are just a part of spiritual maturity, in the same category as having knowledge and love, or exercising spiritual gifts.
- v.9 (6) Everything you do which has a truly spiritual impact on others will cost you something. Without giving something up, you cannot really give anything to others.
- v.10-12 (7) The real issue is never the amount of money; only the amount of willingness and readiness to give.
- v.12-15(8) The spiritual need to give -- and the blessings you receive by giving -- is as great as the material need to receive. People with money need to find a way to give it, just as desperately as people/ministry with need, must find a way to receive it.
- v.20-21(9) Make sure the people/ministry to whom you give are very careful and wise in their accounting/allocating procedures.
- v.22-24(10) Look for people/ministries who surround themselves with men and women who have, themselves, already paid heavy price of ministry.