

2 CORINTHIANS

A Verse-by-Verse Study



2 Corinthians 8: 1 (NASB)

Now, brothers and sisters, we make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

2 Corinthians 8: 2 (NLT)

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.

2 Corinthians 8: 3 (NASB)

*For I testify that according to their ability,
and beyond their ability, they
gave voluntarily,*

2 Corinthians 8: 4 (NLT)

They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem.

2 Corinthians 8: 5 (NASB)

*and this, not as we had expected, but
they first gave themselves to the Lord
and to us by the will of God.*

2 Corinthians 8: 6 (NASB)

So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.

2 Corinthians 8: 6 (NASB)

But just as you excel in everything, in faith, speaking, knowledge, and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you also excel in this gracious work.



What "gracious work" is Paul telling this Church to excel in?



How is giving
“gracious work”?

2 Corinthians 8: 8 (NASB)

I am not saying this as a command, but as proving, through the earnestness of others, the sincerity of your love as well.



Why is giving not a command?

2 Corinthians 8: 8 (NASB)

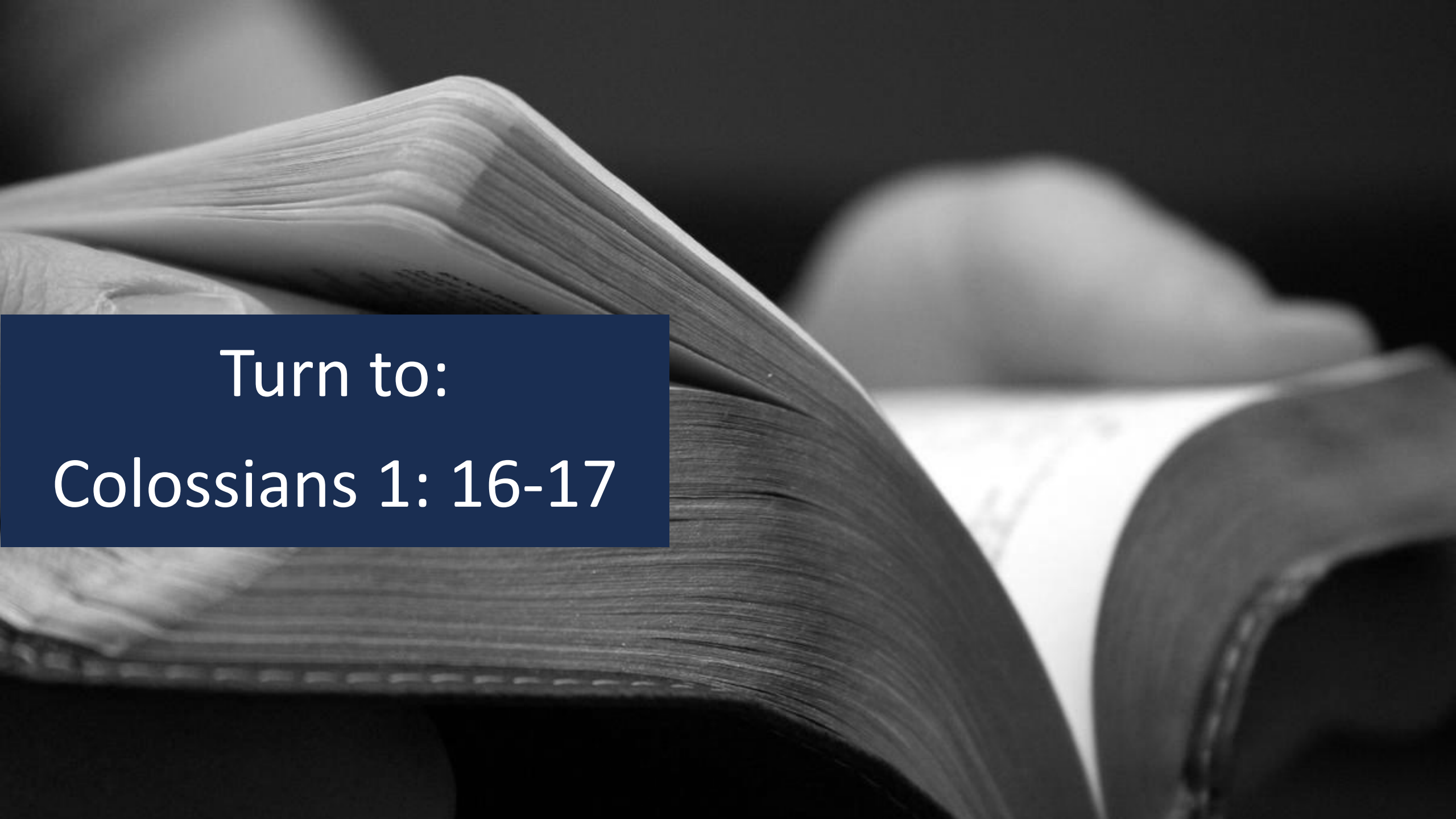
*I am not saying this as a command, but as **proving**, through the earnestness of others, **the sincerity of your love** as well.*

2 Corinthians 8: 9 (NASB)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.



What point is Paul making about Jesus?

A black and white photograph of an open book, showing the pages and the binding. The book is open, and the pages are visible. A dark blue rectangular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing white text. The text reads "Turn to:" followed by "Colossians 1: 16-17" on the next line. The background is dark and out of focus.

Turn to:
Colossians 1: 16-17

Colossians 1: 16-17 (NLT)

*for through him God created everything
in the heavenly realms and on earth.
He made the things we can see and the
things we can't see—*

Colossians 1: 16-17 (NLT)

such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.

*Everything was created through him
and for him.*

*He existed before anything else,
and he holds all creation together.*

2 Corinthians 8: 10 (NASB)

I give my opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do this, but also to desire to do it.

What is the difference between being forced to do something versus desiring to do something?



2 Corinthians 8: 11 (NASB)

But now finish doing it also, so that just as there was the willingness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability.



What typically happens if you start something, but your heart is not in it?

2 Corinthians 8: 11 (NASB)

But now finish doing it also, so that just as there was the willingness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability.

Giving requires a willingness to
desire it or want it, or it will only
be a temporary action!

2 Corinthians 8: 12-13 (NLT)

Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality.

Equality

Greek: isotes (ee-sot'-ace)

- Equality of treatment
- Likeness or association in condition or situation.
 - ✓ I give what I can, you give what you can, – we each give what we can.

Giving is not about, “Do you have enough?” It is about, “Are you willing to share from what you have?”

This is also not about the redistribution of wealth. God is not a Socialist nor is He saying that the rich are to become poor and the poor are to become rich or that all are to be the same, as socialism demands – He is saying “Love one another.”

Support for socialism gaining traction in US, poll suggests

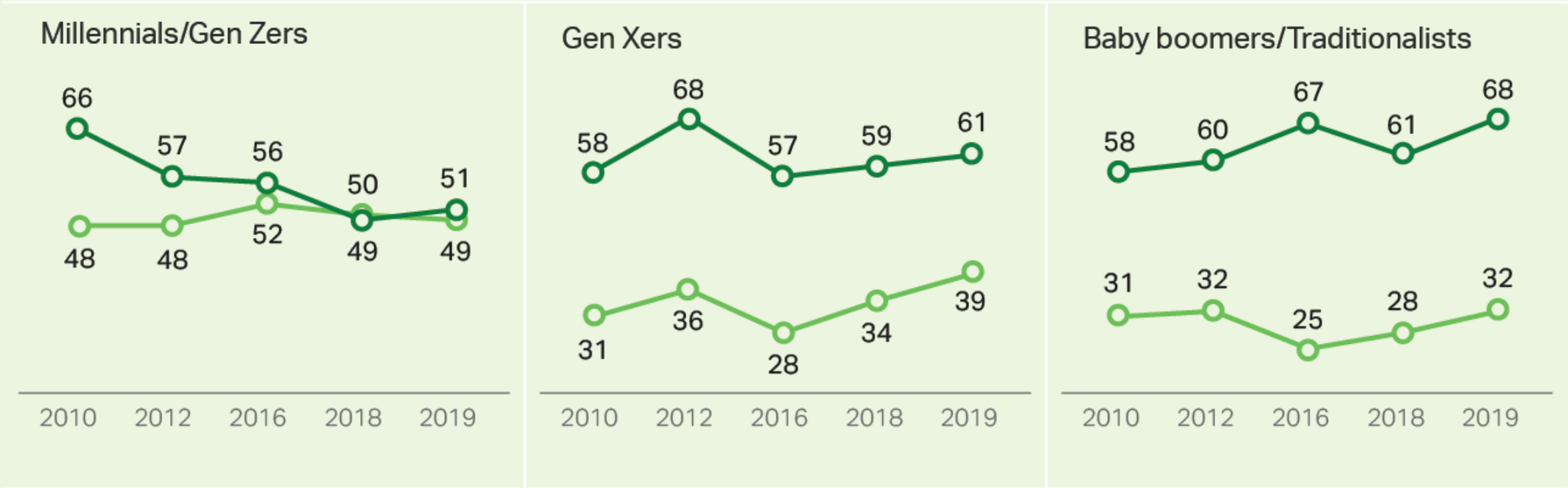
Share of Americans with positive view of capitalism declined from 61 per cent in 2019 to 57 per cent this year

Chantal da Silva • Monday 28 June 2021 15:21 • 4 Comments



Trend in Positive Views Toward Capitalism and Socialism, by Generation

Capitalism (% Positive) Socialism (% Positive)



Millennials/Gen Zers: Ages 18 to 39 in 2019

Gen Xers: Ages 40 to 54 in 2019

Baby boomers/Traditionalists: Ages 55 and older in 2019

- Communism/Socialism says:
What's yours is mine
- Capitalism says: What's mine is mine
- Jesus says: What's mine is yours

2 Corinthians 8: 14 (NLT)

Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal.

2 Corinthians 8: 15 (NLT)

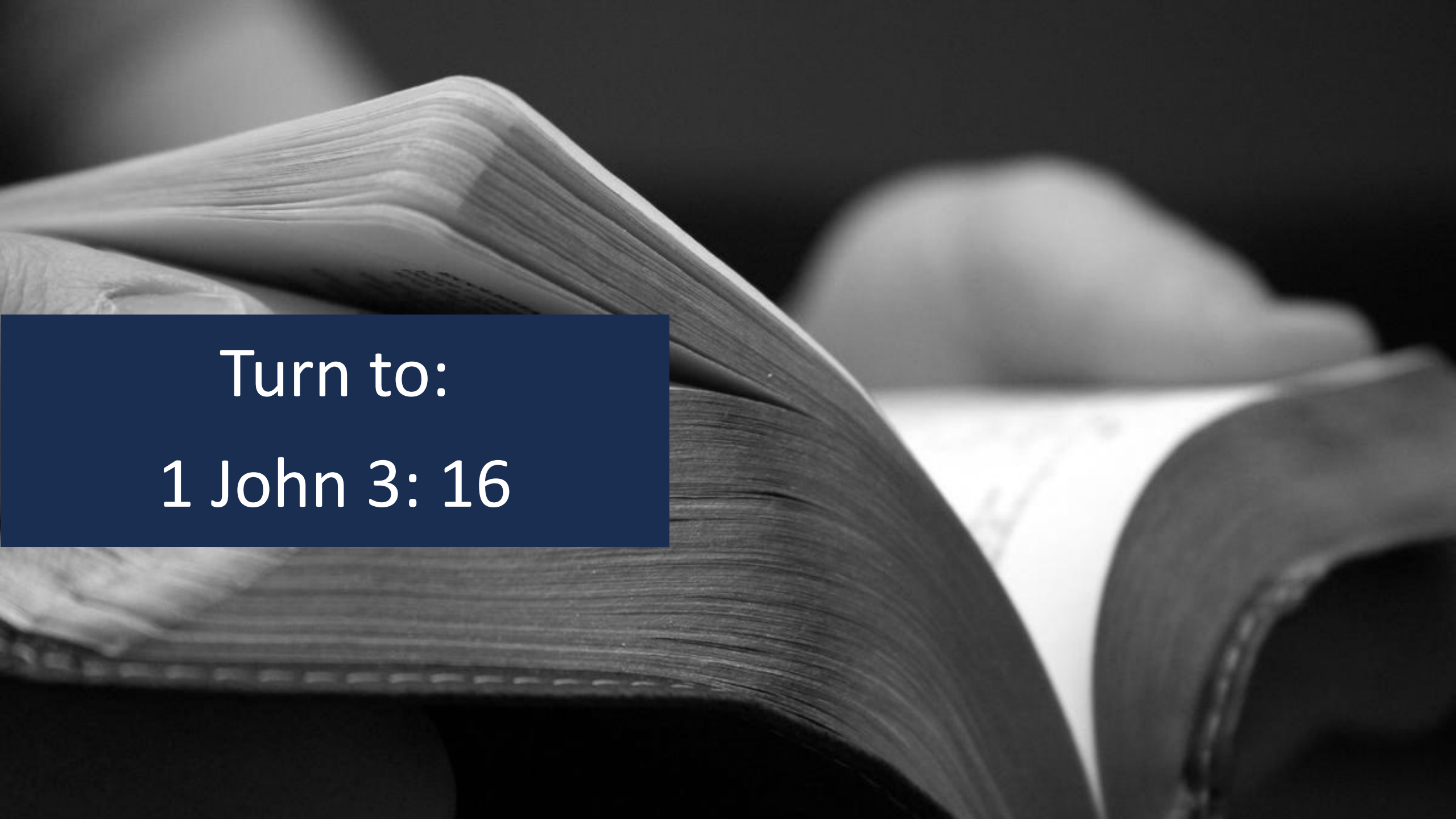
*As the Scriptures say,
“Those who gathered a lot had nothing
left over,
and those who gathered only a little
had enough.”*

2 Corinthians 8: 16 (NASB)

*But thanks be to God **who puts the same earnestness** in your behalf **in the heart of Titus.***



What earnestness
is Paul referring
to?

A black and white photograph of an open book, showing the texture of the pages and the binding. A dark blue rectangular overlay is positioned on the left side of the book, containing white text. The background is dark and out of focus.

Turn to:
1 John 3: 16

1 John 3: 16-17 (NIV)

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

1 John 3: 16-17 (NIV)

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

2 Corinthians 8: 17 (NASB)

For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he has gone to you of his own accord.

2 Corinthians 8: 18 (NASB)

We have sent along with him the brother whose fame in the things of the gospel has spread through all the churches;

2 Corinthians 8: 19 (NASB)

and not only that, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and to show our readiness,

2 Corinthians 8: 20 (NASB)

*taking precaution so that no one will
discredit us in our administration of
this generous gift;*



What is Paul concerned about?

What happens to
a Church when
there are
questionable
financial
practices?



2 Corinthians 8: 21 (NASB)

for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of other people.



How do you know
if someone is
trustworthy to
handle money?

2 Corinthians 8: 22 (NASB)

We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things, but now even more diligent because of his great confidence in you.

2 Corinthians 8: 23 (NASB)

As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ.

2 Corinthians 8: 24 (NASB)

Therefore, openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.



What is Paul asking this Church to do?

A black and white photograph of an open book, showing the texture of the pages and the binding. A dark blue rectangular overlay is positioned on the left side of the book, containing white text. The background is dark and out of focus.

Turn to:
Hebrews 13: 16

Hebrews 13: 16 (NIV)

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

2 Corinthians 9: 1 (NIV)

There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord's people.

What do you think Paul believes this Church will do, regarding giving, based on this statement?



2 Corinthians 9: 2 (NIV)

For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action.



Were the
Macedonians
giving?

2 Corinthians 9: 3 (NIV)

But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be.

2 Corinthians 9: 4 (NIV)

For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident.

How important
are our actions as
viewed by
others?

2 Corinthians 9: 5 (NASB)

*So I considered it necessary to urge the brothers that they go on ahead to you and **arrange in advance** your previously promised generous gift, that the same would be **ready as a generous gift, and not as one grudgingly given** due to greediness.*

Giving

1. Planned
2. Generous
3. Gift
4. Not grudgingly given



What causes us to not be generous givers who give joyfully?

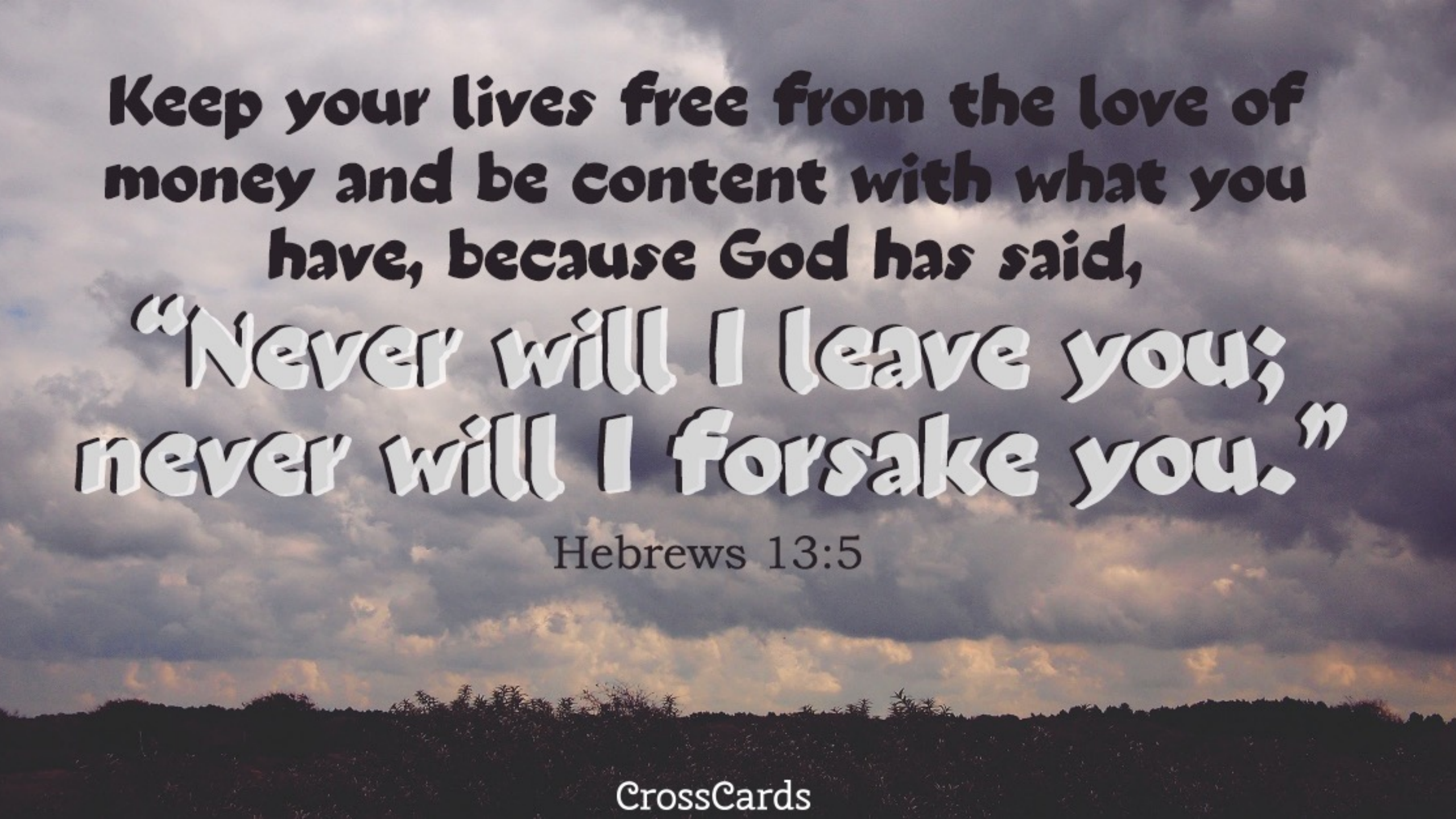
2 Corinthians 9: 5 (NASB)

*So I considered it necessary to urge the brothers that they go on ahead to you and arrange in advance your previously promised generous gift, that the same would be ready as a generous gift, and not as one **grudgingly given due to greediness.***

What is
greediness?



Why does
greediness cause
you to give
grudgingly?



**Keep your lives free from the love of
money and be content with what you
have, because God has said,
“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”**

Hebrews 13:5

CrossCards

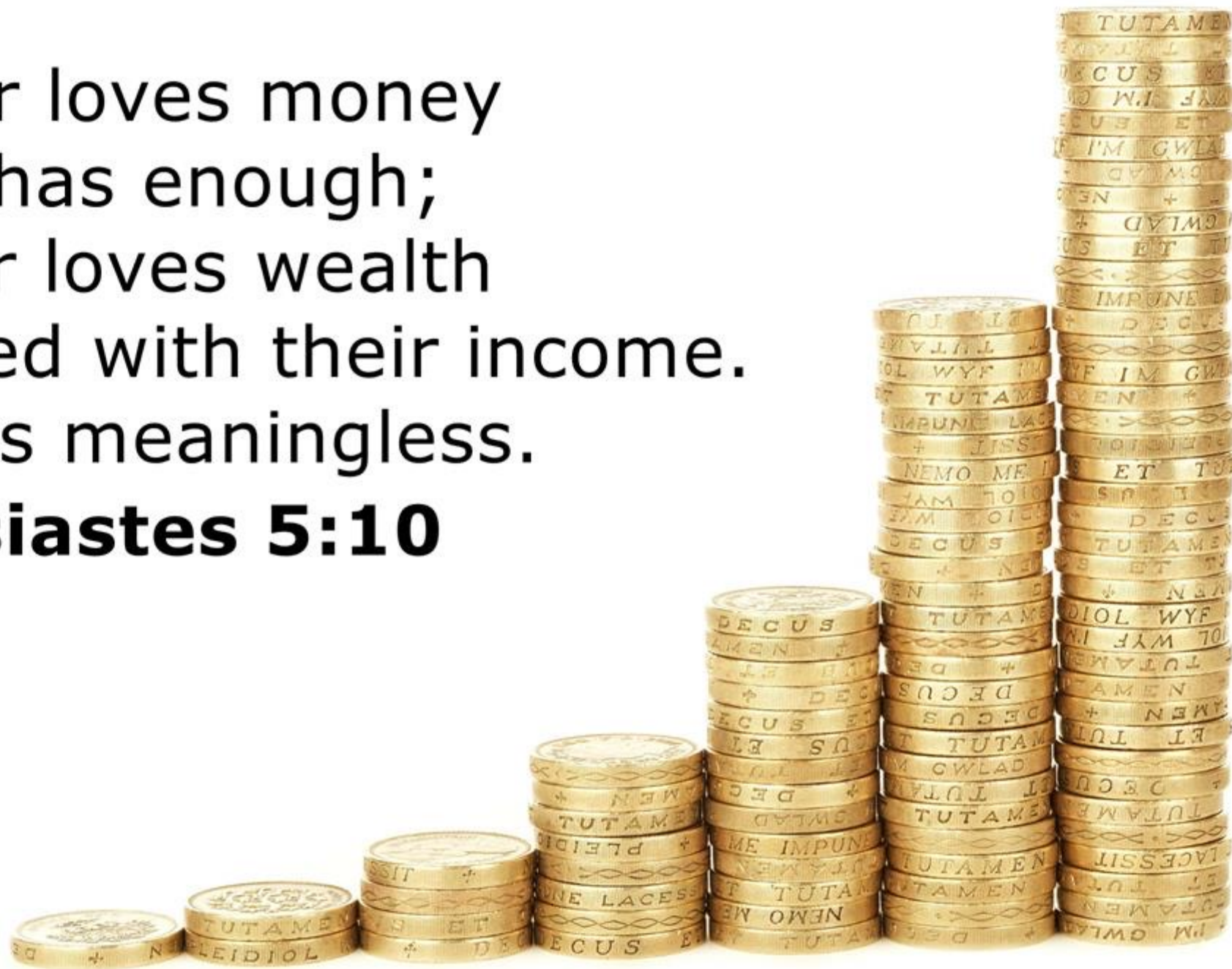
1 Timothy 6:17

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to **put their hope in God**, who **richly provides** us with everything for our enjoyment.



Whoever loves money
never has enough;
whoever loves wealth
is never satisfied with their income.
This too is meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 5:10



2 Corinthians 9: 6 (NASB)

Now I say this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows generously will also reap generously.

Sparingly

Greek: pheidomenos

- To hold with a tight fist or strong grip
- To squeeze or strangle what is in the hand

Generously

Greek: eulogia

- Bountifully
- A blessing
- A eulogy of blessing



So what is this passage telling us?

2 Corinthians 9: 7 (NASB)

Each one must do just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.



What happens
when we give out
of compulsion?



What is the whole point of giving?

A close-up, black and white photograph of an open book. The pages are thick and aged, with visible texture and some discoloration. The book is open, showing the gutter in the center. A dark blue rectangular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing white text. The background is dark and out of focus.

Turn to:
Hosea 6:6

Hosea 6: 6 (NLT)

I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings.

2 Corinthians 9: 8 (NASB)

*And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, **always having all sufficiency in everything**, you may have an abundance for every good deed;*

2 Corinthians 9: 9 (NASB)

as it is written:

*“He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor,
His righteousness endures forever.”*

God is the perfect example
of a giving heart!

2 Corinthians 9: 10 (NASB)

*Now He who supplies seed to the sower
and bread for food **will supply and
multiply your seed for sowing**
and increase the harvest of your
righteousness;*



What does God
do with your gift?



Remember the
bread and fish?

2 Corinthians 9: 11 (NASB)

*You will be enriched in every way so that
you can be generous on every occasion,
and through us your generosity will result
in thanksgiving to God.*



What does generosity lead to?

2 Corinthians 9: 11 (NIV)

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

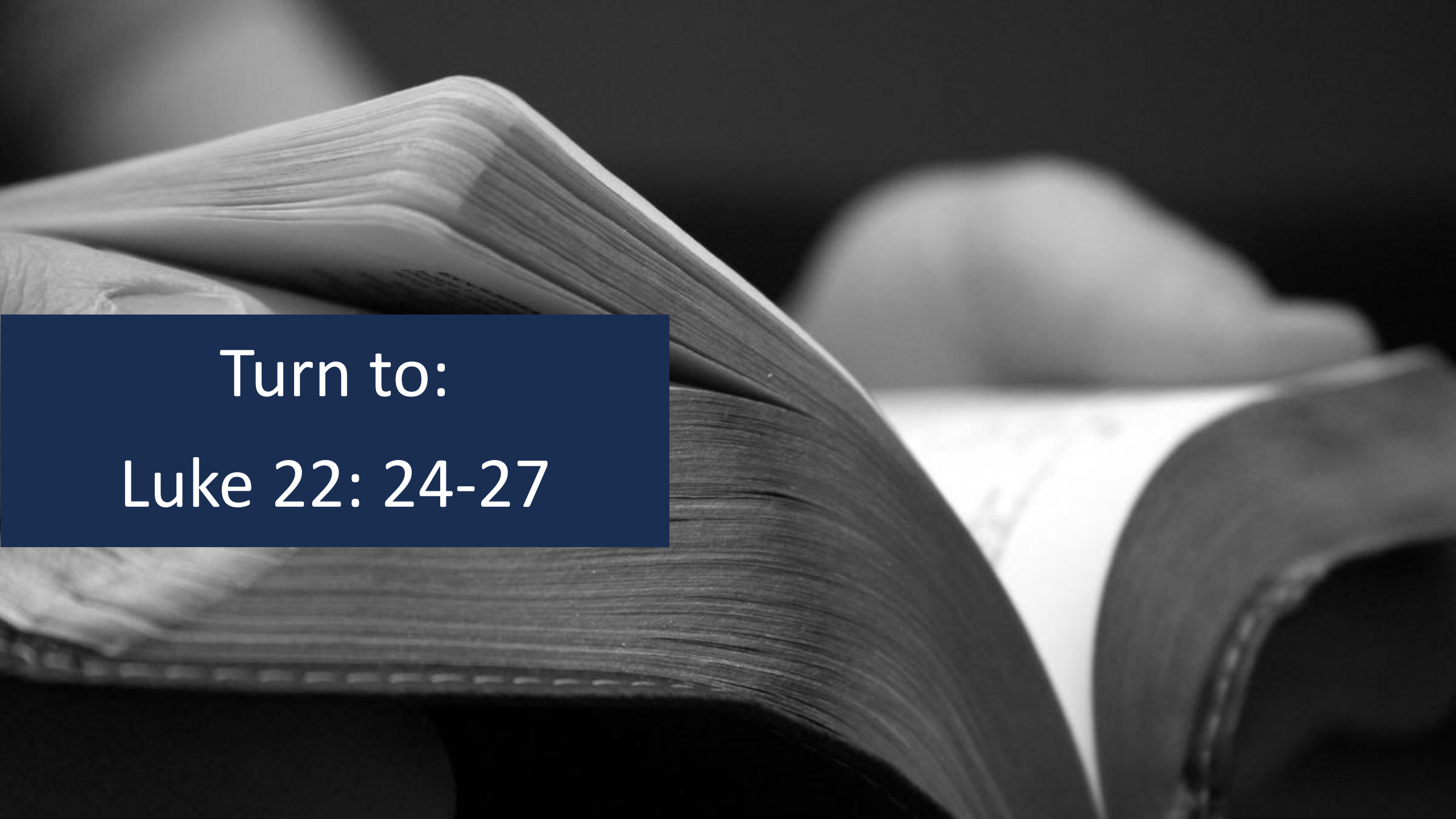
2 Corinthians 9: 12 (NASB)

*For **the ministry of this service** is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.*

Ministry

Greek: diakonia (dee-ak-on-ee'-ah)

- The attending to
- To serve
- To give
- To relieve

A black and white photograph of an open book, showing the texture of the pages and the binding. A dark blue rectangular overlay is positioned on the left side of the book, containing white text. The background is dark and out of focus.

Turn to:
Luke 22: 24-27

Luke 22: 24-27 (NLT)

Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them. Jesus told them, “In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called ‘friends of the people.’

Luke 22: 24-27 (NLT)

But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves?



What is the answer to that question?

Luke 22: 24-27 (NLT)

*The one who sits at the table, of course.
But not here! For I am among you as one
who serves.*

A black and white photograph of an open book, showing the pages and the binding. A dark blue rectangular overlay is positioned on the left side of the book, containing white text. The background is dark and out of focus.

Turn to:
Galatians 5: 13

Galatians 5: 13 (NLT)

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Giving is Serving!

2 Corinthians 9: 12 (NASB)

For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.



How does giving
result in many
thanksgivings to
God?

2 Corinthians 9: 13 (NIV)

Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.