

Stewardship: Giving
2 Corinthians 8:1-9

A man in a dark suit and white shirt is seen from behind, gesturing with his right hand towards a large, blurred audience seated in a conference room. The text "I am a millionaire!" is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

I am a millionaire!



Genesis 4:3-5

“3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.”



- The word “tithe” is translated from two Hebrew words in the Old Testament: “Ma’asrah” or “Asar”.
- Ma’asrah means “tenth part” while Asar means to “accumulate the tenth”.



Three tithes

1. The Levitical Tithes (Numbers 18:21;24)
2. The Tithes of the Feasts (Deuteronomy 14:22-23)
3. The Tithes for the Poor (Deuteronomy 14:27-29)



- So if we are to add the total amount of tithes an average Israelite were to give in a year....
- **23.3%** of their annual produce.
- Is it mandatory for Christians to follow these tithing laws?





2 Cor 8:1-9

- 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 “We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints- 5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.




2 Cor 8:1-9

- 6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. 7 But as you excel in everything- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you- see that you excel in this act of grace also. 8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. **9 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 by his poverty might become rich.”**



Biblical principles on giving

For the Christian:

- 1. The basis for giving is the **grace of our Lord Jesus Christ****
- 
- 2. The attitude of giving is **joy and a cheerful heart****




Application

- We give because:
 - We are the direct recipients of Jesus' grace and love for our lives.
 - We want to follow in Jesus' footsteps, of how He gave up His own right and richness for the benefit of others.
 - That is a sign of our genuine love for others.



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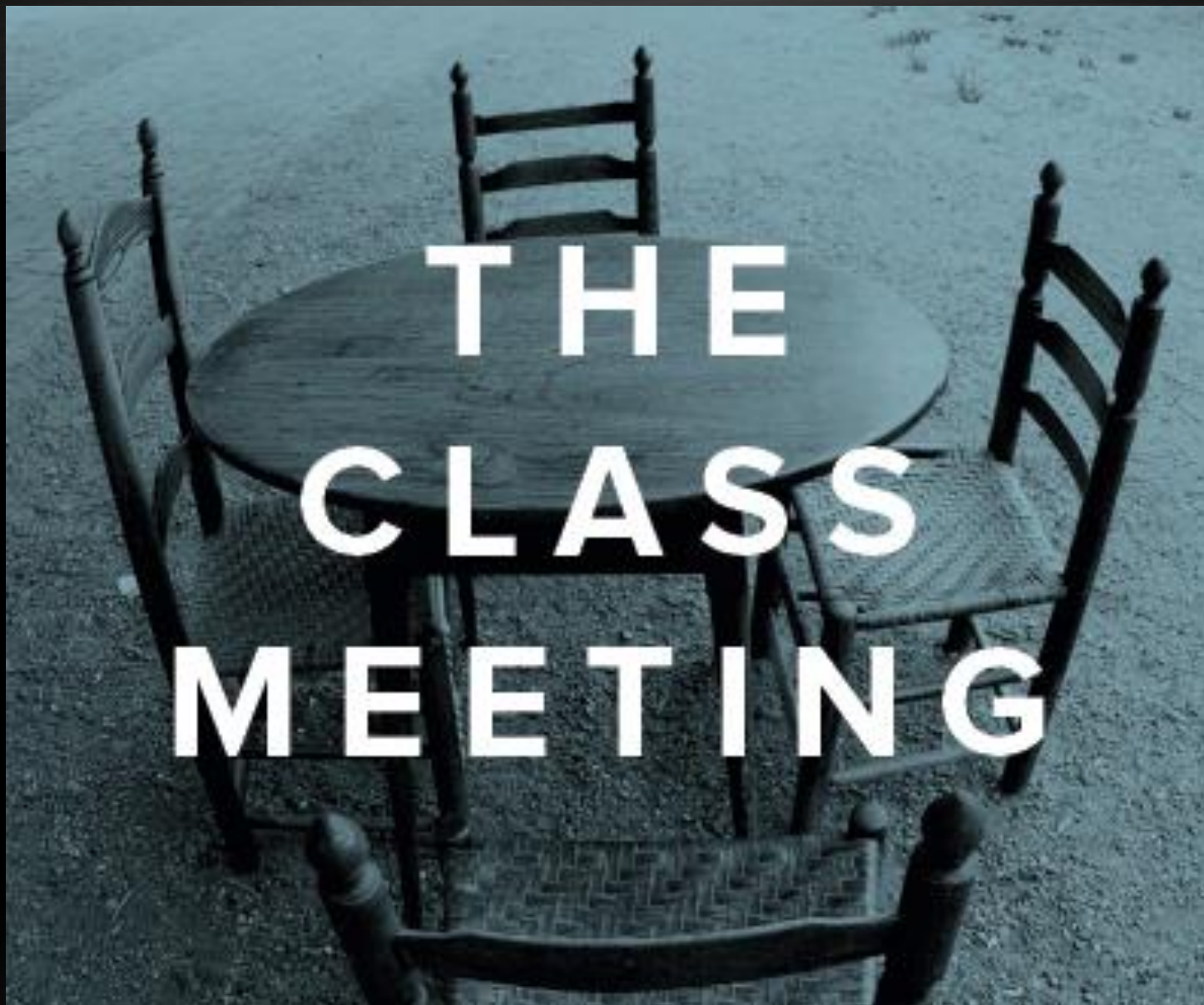
2 Cor 9:7-10

- *“7 Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.**” And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” 10 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.***



How to give?

- Make up our minds.
- Give cheerfully
- 10%, though not mandatory can be a guide. More importantly, give of our best.



**THE
CLASS
MEETING**