**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**June 24th 2018. Building tomorrow’s Church today**

**Discussion notes: Money: 2 Corinthians 9**

We live in a rapidly changing world. Historic churches however tend to value tradition and permanence. They can often be characterised as conservative institutions. The Church Jesus founded however was a dynamic movement that He was building in a way that meant it could take the offensive (‘and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against her’). In this series we look at some of the *values* of Church (values carry permanence) and some of the *practices* that are more flexible as we consider the challenges of the future.

1. The Old Testament law saw tithing, the giving of one tenth as an offering to God as the normal practice for His people. What do you think the New Testament advocates?
2. Generosity rather than obligation are characteristics of Paul’s teaching here about giving. How can you teach on giving without making people feel obligated to give?
3. What promises are associated with giving in this passage? How much do you aspire to ‘cheerful generosity’? Do you enjoy giving? Does this passage motivate you?
4. How does our giving to God relate to our responsibility as citizens and tax payers?
5. How much of our giving should be to facilitate the ministry of the Church? How much should be for the relief of poverty? What else should we give to?
6. Do you understand how giving works at Woodlands? How much is giving financially part of your commitment to the Church and its cause.

At our Thanksgiving evening on Tuesday 19th June Ed Marsh gave a report on our finances. How do you respond to what he said? Are you an onlooker or part of that giving community? How much do our offerings help or hinder the ministry of the Church?