

## “Greeting Team”

### For Sunday, September 22nd

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go “welcome” people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

### Greeters this week:

Curt Mastbergen Sun Noon;

Josh Tackett Sun Night

- 1st— Odin Dart Thursday Night;
- 2nd— Justin Taylor Sunday Night;
- 3rd—Randy Ehlers Monday Night;
- 4th—Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon; Tackett Sunday Night

### Small Groups @ MBC

*Are the primary means for carrying out “pastoral care”*

## Announcements

1. Going To The “**Men’s Retreat**”? Sept 27-28  
Camp Assurance. Grab a flyer @ the Welcome Desk!
2. **Looking For A Good Book About Church?** Pickup “What Is A Healthy Church?” by Mark Dever

## God Loves Generosity

To quote the words of the Apostle Paul, to the Church of Corinth, accurately, “...*God loves a cheerful giver...*” 2 Corinthians 9:7. God is generous! He gives us everything we “need,” the Scripture says; and, an awful lot of our “wants” also! He is a good God! And, He expects that we will become more and more generous as we are sanctified & made a new creation in the image of His generous Son, Jesus! And, He has those expectations, of us, with good reason— He has given us His Holy Spirit to indwell us & change us! That means we can give “in the flesh”— giving sparingly or reluctantly! Or, we can give “in the Spirit”— to give willingly & generously & cheerfully as a work of the Spirit in our life! Generous giving is the supernatural work of God’s indwelling Spirit! That “in the flesh” attitude comes from a belief that God is a **TAKER** rather than a **GIVER**! If we believe that God is a **TAKER**, we’ll also give sparingly & reluctantly! We’ll see His requirements of a tithe & offering as taking away something that’s “**MINE**”; or, something “I’ve **WORKED** for.” But if, in our heart, we see God as a **GIVER** we’ll see all our financial blessings as coming from God; not, from ourselves! Our financial decisions ultimately reveal what we think about God! God is a **GIVER**! That is His nature! He gave life to Adam & Eve. He gave them a beautiful garden home! He gave them a choice! And, when they made the wrong choice & sinned against Him, He gave His Son— because, “*God so loved the world that He GAVE His only Son...*” So, He gave the world a 2nd chance at redemption through Jesus & the Cross! And, as followers of Jesus, He gives to us so we can be a blessing; and, give to others! This is an amazing truth from God’s Word! Whether you’re rich, by the world’s standards; or, poor like the widow who gave her mite, God has given us our stuff to make givers out of us. That’s exactly what Paul told the Church of Corinth: “*And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance [or: make every grace abound to you] so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work*” 2 Corinthians 9:8. Get that? God gives us what we have so we can be generous!



## It’s All His Anyway

He gives us enough, so, that if we manage it rightly, we’ll have what we need to be **GIVERS**! Now, the implication is that if we say we don’t have enough to give, we’re mismanaging what He’s given us! Or, God’s Word is incorrect! Paul actually expands on this in v.10— “...*the One (GOD) who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness.*” In other words, God gives on **BOTH** sides of our giving! He gives us “seed” before we give; and, He multiplies it & provides a harvest for all the righteous deeds we can do concerning giving! That’s God’s promise! He gives all of us what we need to **BE GIVERS**! Though, in His Sovereignty, He may give more to some than to others; so, that they can give **MORE**! But, we’ve all been **GIVEN** to **GIVE**! That brings God glory!