**Going deeper in II Corinthians 9:7, Proverbs 22:7, Romans 13:7-8, Matthew 6:24,**

**Proverbs 21:20, Luke 12:20-21, Proverbs 11:28**

**INTRODUCTION**

God calls us to be generous and cheerful givers. The following verses focus on two of the factors that highly influence our ability to be both generous and cheerful – debt and savings.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

II Corinthians 9:7 – “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Proverbs 22:7 – “The rich rule over the poor, the borrower is the slave of the lender.”

Romans 13:7, 8 – “Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law”

Matthew 6:24- “No man can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Proverbs 21:20 – In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.”

Luke 12:20, 21 – “You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself? This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich towards God.”

Proverbs 11:28 – “Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a

green leaf.”

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Are you a cheerful giver? What factors influence your ability to be cheerfully generous? (II Cor. 9:7)

2. Proverbs 22:7 -Having a “just a little bit more” mentality can lead to a person becoming a “slave” to debt. As Christians, what are the dangers inherent in carrying ongoing credit card debt?

3. Matthew 6:24 – What/Who is your master today? If your focus is distracted by money matters, what steps can you take today to shift focus?

4. Proverbs 21:20 – What is the difference between the wise and foolish man in this proverb?

5. What point about savings does Jesus make in the parable of the Rich Fool in Luke 12:16-21?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

*\**Give thanks for all the good gifts God has given you!

\*Ask our Lord to help you make wise decisions regarding your finances.

\*Ask God to help you strengthen your personal relationship with Him.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Everything we have is a gift from God. This week, evaluate how you are using His gifts. Are there debt/saving factors that are holding you back from being able to be as generous as you would like? As God would like? Consider what steps you can begin taking and what resources you can utilize if there is a need to make changes in your financial situation. Remember to give thanks and praise God, trusting that He will help you to break free from all that prevents you from fully “thriving like a green leaf” in Him!