

# **“God Loves a Cheerful Giver”**

**By Chris Ulrich**

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Amen. You may be seated. It's good to see everybody this morning. Welcome back, all of those who were traveling over the holiday. How many people were traveling? A lot of people. Looking around... Welcome back. I'm glad everybody made it back safely. I, myself, was out of town, last week, as well, so I missed the first sermon of the year. But, I heard a lot of good reports about it. Alex sent me quite a few notes; Bob Heirtzler put together some notes, and I was able to look at some of the information.

I'd like to ask Ed Howes to come up. He's got something that ties into the foundation, the foundation that we looked at. To me, when I looked at it, it was just a real good example of, just a reminder. Just a way to remind ourselves, and, Ed, many of you may not know this, but he actually goes by the name of Ed Howes Picasso. What he's got here is quite the masterpiece. I wanted to just show that real quick. Turn it around and show everybody. I don't know if everybody can see that, here. It actually—my appreciation is that he colored in the lines; all the letters are nicely blocked out. Now, he only used four colors; I would have used six, but, this is what a Picasso does. I appreciate you sharing that, Ed. Again, it's a link—Come on up here just for a second. So, these were some of the points that Parrish had shared last week: Prayer, Fellowship, Study, Tithes and Offerings, Evangelism, and Worship. And, I know this month doesn't have six Sundays. Thank you very much, Ed. I appreciate you being a good sport about it.

But, today, after a bunch of prayer, and discussing with myself, Andy, and Jesse, and Parrish, the topic that we agreed on is going to be Tithes and Offerings, so, ushers, if you could lock the doors! No, just kidding, just kidding. It's free will. We're going to get into that a little bit more, today, and I'm actually going to share the title of the message today, it's, “God Loves a Cheerful Giver.” There are a couple of points here, and I'm really going to develop these points, and the first one is the title:

1. God Loves a Cheerful Giver
2. God Gives Back, But He also Gave Before Us

I'm going to share that again: God gives back, but He also gave before us. I want to let those points sink in a little bit as we start to get into the message today.

## **1st Point – God Loves a Cheerful Giver**

But I know there's a lot of stigma attached to this, and I know a lot of us know, well, we've heard different horror stories, or we've heard about different experiences that we've had, or we've heard about, or we've read about that sort of gives giving to a charitable organization, maybe a little bit of a bad reputation. It's unfortunate, but that's the cards that we've been dealt. And, it's not a competition, and it's not about trying to scam anybody into giving, and it's not about trying to force anybody into giving, but it's also not about glossing over it and acting like it doesn't exist, acting like, “Well, we're just going to put our heads in the sand on this one, and not even think about it and just hope for the best. I think we really haven't addressed that like we would any of those other six topics that Ed showed, and that Parrish preached on. But, I'll tell you this much: There's nothing people hate more than being scammed or ripped off in this life. I know there's worse crimes, I mean, we could talk about the violence that this world is filled with. But, nobody likes to be ripped off; nobody likes to feel like they've been

taken for a ride. And, again, I think maybe that concept of stewardship has been given a bad reputation, as a result of scam artists in the past, and I'm not going to get into examples right now; I may, as service goes on. But, I think it's also true that, if people don't believe in , the organization or the cause, whatever it might be, they might still be a participant, but they're not going to give—they won't fully finance it; that's what I wanted to say.

On the other hand, people see commercials, or read about it, or they see—during the Christmas season, especially, you know, you see the Salvation Army people out there, and, or you hear about the Red Cross, or, St. Jude Children's Hospital, that is a pretty common one, I mean, you see commercials that—I didn't really do a lot of research on them. I know I've received—and do some giving to their organization—I believe their stance is that no parent ever gets a bill for the treatment of their children, which, I'm going to get into that, that philanthropy, because you've got to know that, if their care and their treatment is being taken care of, if it's getting paid for; that's a pretty substantial, that's a very high-level economic support, a very high monetary support. But it's not as though everybody has to know about or giving, or what we're giving, either. It's not as though we go around—it's not a competition. Christ, Himself, said to do not our alms before men or to be seen of men, to have your reward of men.

And we can't always know from outward appearance, like, maybe somebody has a reputation, and I'm going to share about somebody. I'm talking about somebody that's passed on, but I have to say, it's even a little comical, in some ways, but, there was an owner of the New York Yankees, many years ago, his name was George Steinbrenner. How many's heard of George Steinbrenner? Okay. Well, he purchased the team, back in the early 70's, and, kind of had a reputation for being pretty cut-throat, you know, pretty ruthless, and, you know, arguments with his players, and firing managers, and on and on and on. He even had a player—and many of you may remember this, but, he obtained a player by the name of Dave Winfield. So, Dave, he was a good hitter, but the Yankees were all about the post-season; they were all about winning the World Series. Well, Dave never really lived up to his reputation—he couldn't produce in the post-season. The guy was probably like 0 for 30, or something like that. A couple of years prior to that, there was a guy, Reggie Jackson, who a lot of us remember as Mr. October. You know, he's was in it with the A's, he was in it with the Yankees... So, George Steinbrenner called Dave, 'Mr. May.' And, what that means is, you can produce when it doesn't really matter, or, when nobody's looking, or, when the season's not on the line. And I think that's pretty funny—I mean, not for Dave—but, it's the kind of thing where it's like, again, here's guy, the reputation of George Steinbrenner was a little bit ruthless, a little bit cut-throat, not always the nicest guy in the room.

And, I'm not up here to try and retell George Steinbrenner's history or life's story, I never met the man, and, again, I was a Red Sox fan—I probably should have mentioned that earlier—so, I hated the Yankees, and, anything I'd read about Steinbrenner, I'd be like, "Yeah! It's got to be true! It's got to be true!" Well, he did have quite a reputation, in addition to that, as quite a philanthropist, as far as giving, as far as establishing foundations, as far as establishing charities. And I get that he was wealthy. I think, a lot of times, we think, "Oh, well, he could afford it, he could do it..." You know, he could have been a miser. He could have just said, "No, I'm not giving anything. I'm just going to hoard it all for myself." And, in fact, my brother and his family live in the Tampa area, and the high school that his kids went to was George Steinbrenner high school. And he had contributed lots of money and lots of efforts into youth, and into the community, and, again, it's not a matter of looking at it like, "Okay, well, where do I stand?' Why am I talking about this? It has to do with a desire that people have to give, that comes from God, and we can't just look at it that that person's desire is just an outward appearance only. We have to look at it like, they might being doing it honestly. Again, we talked about, "Do not your alms before men."

**Exodus 25:1-8** *And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass, And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense, Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate. And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.*

I want to highlight in this passage that these aren't cheap things that God's asking His people to give. This isn't something like, "Oh, I've got a toothpick in my pocket, or some lint," or, "I'll just throw in a couple of pennies. I mean, gold, onyx stones, these different textiles, which the passage refers to are something that takes craft and labor. I mean, this isn't something that—it's something that's of value. And that's what we're talking about. We're not talking about doing something half-heartedly, or, "I'm always going to err on the side of the cheapest." And, again, I get who I'm talking to. I'm not trying to sit here and, like, turn you upside down and shake you. I think we've all heard that expression before, but that's not what this is about.

But, I'm going to ask a question that might even seem like a little bit of a curve ball: What are our reasons not to give? I'm not asking for people to shout them out, but I am asking you to start thinking in your mind, "What would be our reasons not to give?" And, I'm not asking if they're good or bad reasons, either, because I know that this passage we read, is about God asking His people to give valuable things, something that actually takes an effort, something that actually takes time, and it's something that it takes a sacrifice to give. But, what about when we're unemployed? I mean, that's a difficult situation. What about when we've got bills that exceed the amount of income that we've got coming in? What about a home foreclosure? What about a tragedy, or something that we've got expenses—I know the expenses for funerals these days, and, you know, a lot of people are going the route of cremation. I know that's not necessarily a really happy thing to talk about the second week of January, but it's a reality, and a lot of people are understanding that that's the route they're taking. Or, what if you just don't want to, or just don't like to, or we don't trust the organization.

On the other end of the scale, what are our reasons to give? We could say the word of God teaches it, we have a job, the bills are paid, we have a roof over our head, we have clothes on our back, we have food on the table, we have a roof over our heads, we have a vehicle to drive, we have clothes for the kids, we have the wherewithal to sustain ourselves, or, as the expression goes, to make ends meet. Or we could say, "I want to," "I like to," or, "I do trust the organization."

And I know some of these are verses people have heard before, but I believe they're worth reiterating.

**Malachi 3:10-12** *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.*

I remember when I was baptized, just a few months; I was just part of this ministry, and this was 1988. And I've shared with many people here, I was raised Catholic, but I wasn't active, that's for sure. And we were not really much of a religious family, either. I mean, we believed in God, to a point, until that kind of ended, but... But, I know that when God spoke to me—I know that Parrish had talked about that still, small voice—and I realized, "There it is! This is real!" This was something that got me to seeking, and searching, and praying to find the truth. Christ Himself said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and

the Life. No man cometh unto the Father but by Me.” So, if you ever hear anybody out there say, “There's no truth! It's all just random. Everybody's just floating around.” You know, the Big Bang Theory. It's not; it's not the Big Bang Theory. So, I had been baptized a short period of time, and, was starting to give. I had heard different things; I'd see the plate pass by, or I saw the offering box, but it was never something where I felt like it was a—being forced to do that. And, at the time, I was making big money, about \$315 every two weeks! You know the Navy salary for an E-3, or whatever I was at the time. So, you know, big, big money. Really, enough to just invest in the stock market—no, that's not true. But, I asked one of the assistant pastors about getting a study on the topic. I just wasn't sure whether there was an amount, or whether there was a certain amount, or whether there was a certain percentage. But, it was something where he said, “All right, we'll put together something.” And, it wasn't—you know, maybe a few days later, got a study, and, I'll tell you what, that study convinced me about the importance of giving that's lasted until now. And it's something that I look at it like it's something for the future, as well. It isn't something that I felt like it was just—it wasn't just relevant to that week or that year or that month or that short period of time. And it wasn't like it was shared in a very beat-down type of a way, it was shared in a very matter-of-fact way, like this was what the Word of God teaches.

**2 Corinthians 9:1-7** *For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you: For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many. Yet have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this behalf; that, as I said, ye may be ready: Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting. Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness. But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

So, there's the title of the sermon, today, “God Loves a Cheerful Giver.” I want to just make a quick couple of reference points, here: 'Superfluous,' that was in verse one—that just means unnecessary, and the reason he wrote it that way was because they were already doing it. So, the next part, giving out of necessity, I kind of looked this up: it's like, out of obligation, “I do it because I have to,” like, “Somebody's making me,” or, “I committed to it,” or “I have to be part of this organization, so I'm going to do it in such-and-such manner.” But God's telling us not to do it grudgingly or out of necessity, but to do it cheerfully and willingly, and, again, it's not really like we're talking about getting into amounts, here.

But, I want to share an account of some of the giving that I've seen over the years, and I'm talking about many of our seniors that I remember—that a lot of us remember—that have passed on, the Julia Hardy's, the Christine Schultz's, the Bob Grandberg's, the Louise Smith's, that I remember seeing give. And it wasn't anything where—I mean, it was consistent. I've seen it from children, and, I mean, most kids don't have a job, and, if they do, that's something that can't be forced, but it's got to be taught. I'm going to share something that—it was an anonymous donation, and it was something where those of us that were in the accounting department, and I want to get into the in a minute, here, knew, but there was a couple who gave almost \$100,000 one time. But, they did it so cheerfully and willingly—it was an inheritance that they had received, and I was stunned. I remember Jesse Rairdon—thank you, Jesse. Jesse was our head accountant here for many years, along with Jay Hunemuller, who is the international accountant. But, I understand that's not always going to happen; you're not always going

to get those kinds of amounts. But that's why I share these accounts together, whether it's somebody with a dollar, or somebody with a twenty, you know, whether it's somebody who blows your socks off, for lack of a better term. But, more than anything, it's about being a cheerful giver. But, I wanted to mention Jesse and Rob Severance and Jay Hunemuller. A lot of us know Jay, and, those of us that don't, he was our international accountant. He's been around for many, many years. He was up here about a month and a half ago, but, this was probably fifteen years ago. I was kind of praying for some direction in the ministry; I had been in the ministry for many years, but, I was looking for some areas to kind of focus on, and really work with. I remember seeing Jay, a lot of us remember Jay, he was frantic, always walking around, but a really happy guy. You know, it was like, one statement, one quote you would hear him say a lot, "How you doing, Jay?" "I'm doing great, but getting better." Well, that's good; that's high up on the list. And, it was like, very cheerful, very energetic, but a hard worker. And, I remember talking with Jesse, and feeling like God had led me to help in that department, and learned a lot. I want to share some things, because, it was the type of thing where, like, now, I didn't do it for, like, suspicion, or, like, "Where's the money going?" It was more like, "I see these guys staying very busy and staying active, and it seems like they need assistance," and that was my prayer. And what I would say is that the enlightenment that I got from that experience over the course of the next ten years was just seeing the type of bills, the gas bills, the mortgage bills, the type of thing, like, assisting with homeless, or assisting with missions... And, I want to share one thing real quick: I know that God's given us the people in Haiti. We've got several churches in Haiti, and I think a lot of us know, if you know your geography, and you know your history, it's the second-poorest country in the world, after Bangladesh. And, it's the type of thing—I want to just share this: Pastor Paine, our General Pastor shared this many years ago: He talked about our investment in Haiti, in the schools and the teachers, and the infrastructure of that mission, isn't to get a return. It isn't like we're doing that because we're thinking, "Well, eventually they'll give us millions back." He knows, and we knew, that's not going to happen. That's not going to happen, but we're talking about souls. We're talking about being able to have kids in schools down there that are being taught the Word of God, and taught something, and, there's other places. It's not like we're just solely concentrating on that. Christ Himself said, "Whosoever will, let him come and take of the Water of Life freely." We've got missions around the country; we've got different fellowships around the country.

I know that I shared a quote from the movie, "The Godfather" about a month ago, but I couldn't help double-dipping here, so forgive me, forgive me! But, this is something that really stood out, and it's actually at the very beginning. I mean, it's the very first words that are uttered at the very beginning of the movie: The guy just says, "I believe in America." And, to me, that really just sets the tone, and it's not really about, okay, what happens after that. I mean, it's kind of a lengthy movie; if you want to see it, it's up to you. But, as far as making that declaration, there's power to it, because he's an immigrant, from Italy, and he's come to America and built his wealth. The point is that the man believed in America. He understood that there's opportunity here.

To parallel that, I want to say that I believe in giving tithes and offerings, and that's a promise from God. I believed in it a long time ago, I still believe it, I believe it's what God asks of us, and I believe that there's a lot of people here that feel the same thing, the same exact thing. I know I can't stand here and try to force my opinion on anyone; I think I made that clear already. But I'm not going to hold back from speaking what I think God has laid on my heart, in as much as I believe in giving to God's ministry, that's important.

The second point, today—there's only two points:

## **2nd Point – God Gives Back But He also Gave Before Us**

As much as we've already read and talked about how important it is to give and the fact that God loves a cheerful giver, I would be remiss if I didn't balance that out by saying God Gives Back. But, I also would even go as far to say that when Moses went to God, and asked Him for the words to say to the people of Israel, "What do I tell them when I say, 'God sent me?' What do I tell them when I say, 'God sent me?'" He just said, "I am sent hath sent me to you." And everything around us is something God gave us a long ago. It's not like it just appeared in our lifetime. And it sometimes seems as if God is asking us to give first, when the fact is, God gave first, and He also gave a long time before us.

**John 1:1-5** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

Now, here I am, double-dipping again, because that verse is something that I used back in December, that related to a Christmas message. This isn't a Christmas message, but it is a message about giving; it is a message of hope, it is about the Word of God. Now I don't mean to sound flip, but how is that passage not proof that God gave before us? Because, if you look at it, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." That makes that declaration pretty clear, that the creation was here, and that was something that was done by God. Bob Heitzler and I were talking a little bit, yesterday, and we were just talking about being able to learn, as a kid, and the fact that kids can retain a lot. And we talked about how there's a—I guess it's physics—a table of elements. It's a representation of every element that's known to man, and, if you go and look at it, it's a hundred and eighteen, now. Back when I was in school, it was a hundred and three. But, what Bob and I were talking about was, the way God's creation is, there are traces of every single one of those elements in the human body, as well as in the planet Earth. And, not to get too deep into all the parallels, but, if you look at, like the composition of the body is about seventy percent water; the composition of the Earth is about seventy percent water. And, it's all these things, as far as being able to prove the existence of God, that includes science. It's not a matter of us being afraid of science, or us, "Well, I really can't talk about that. Well, I really don't know..." I don't know how long the Earth has been around, in the sense of, like, it seems like every time you turn around, they've lengthened it. At one time, it was like, "Well, it's been around a billion." "No, ten billion." "No, a hundred billion." "No, a trillion." And it's like, make up your minds! I mean, if you want to give us this data, and suggest that it's proof, then agree on something that's solid. But, going back to what we're talking about, the secret things belong to God. It doesn't matter about knowing every single, solitary thing about the history of everything, or mankind, or creation—it doesn't matter. Without faith it is impossible to please God. That's one thing we have to know.

**Deuteronomy 28:1** *And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:*

**Deuteronomy 28:8-13** *The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee. And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers to give thee. The Lord shall open unto thee his good*

*treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:*

I want to start to focus more on God's promise that He will always match our giving, and then far more. I know we live in a world that is filled with calamity, violence, tragedy, and sadness, and on and on and on and on. We don't have to look very far to see that, but, are we seeing victories in the midst of all that? Are we receiving answers to prayers? Are we witnessing changes in our life that we know only God can give? Are we experiencing peace that passes all understanding? Because, what's that worth? We're not talking about, "Well, I'll give this much, and God's going to give this much back." God's going to give back, and then far, far and away exceedingly, abundantly above all that we could ask or think what we've given. And we've all heard that expression, "Well, you can't out-give God." That's true. I tried to—I know there's one verse, obviously, that, one in Malachi, that we've probably heard about. It's probably one of the most popular verse, as far as, like, tithes and offerings types of Scriptures, but I believe that God dealt with me about looking at what did God give that came before us, and what does God give that not only matches what we give, but far and away exceeds it? And, if you look at that passage in Deuteronomy, which, to me, is one of the greatest passages about the blessings of God, you see it. And I understand that it was written thousands of years ago, but it's still relevant, today. This is not something that we just cast off and say, "Oh, we've got to get on to something new." It's always going to be relevant; Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). It's always going to be the Word of God, and we have to understand that. We have to understand that, that God's Word is relevant today.

I'm going to ask if you would turn with me to Psalms 23; I'm going to read this. And I know this is a popular Psalm, it's probably one of the most popular, probably one of the most well-known:

***Psalm 23:1-6*** *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

But if you think about it for a minute, what God's showing us here are all spiritual things. Lying down in green pastures, being lead in the paths of righteousness, a table in the presence of our enemies, anointing our head with oil, and our cup running over. But it's that last verse that's worth rehearsing and revisiting over and over, because that's something that's a promise from Day One. That's something that God's goodness and mercy follows us every day of our life, IF we choose to live right, IF we choose God's ways.

Are we going to have problems in the life? And I'm closing, here, in a moment. I can't think of a day, even some of my most enjoyable vacation days, with the best weather, and in some of the most picturesque places in the world, where I didn't have some kind of problem. When I was out visiting my folks, there was a couple that lived close by, and they're in their seventies. Good, good friends of my parents, and I've gotten along with them well, in the time that I've known them, but the wife has been a little bit depressed, lately, and I'm not going to get into all that, as to why. I mean, normally, she's pretty outgoing, and pretty fun to be around, but, they asked if I could go over and visit for a little while, and, I'll be honest, I thought, "I'll just go over for fifteen, twenty minutes," and ended up talking quite a bit, at

length. And, the thing that we came to a consensus, as we parted ways, was, you're going to have problems every day, no matter what. I mean, it could be, like the temperature setting in your car, like, "Oh, wow!" "This door seal's not working; the draft is coming in." I know it's winter-time, so we're all kind of thinking that way. Every day is filled with some problems, but there's always something to be thankful about. There's always something to thank God about, and know that God has given it to us. And that's just the way life is, here on this Earth, and that's the way it's always going to be, and I believe, in a lot of ways, it just so we don't get too comfortable here. I know there's a verse that talks about the whole creation groaneth and travaileth together (Romans 8:22). And, not dissecting that, or getting too deep into that, but, if we didn't have that, if we started to get just too comfortable, here, we wouldn't seek after the things which are above. God's Word says set your affection on things above and not on things on this world (Colossians 3:2). It doesn't mean we're not aware of what goes around us. It doesn't mean that we're trying to make ourselves absolutely as uncomfortable as possible. You know, when I get in the car, I adjust the seat—I think we all do that—turn on the heated seats if you have them, if it's winter, or whatever the case may be. In the summer, you roll the window down, or run the air, or whatever you do. You know, you get in the recliner, "Yeah, I'm awful comfortable, here. I got to rest my back." But, you know, the flesh can never get too comfortable, and it shouldn't, because if we do set our affections on things above, and not on things of this world, then we have that unction from the Holy Spirit to just keep us going, to keep us doing the right thing, to keep us living right. It's a promise that we can look forward to, and it's a promise we can also look back on as well. Yes, absolutely, 100% God gives back. But He also gave before us.

Thank you for your time, and God bless.