

ANNUAL NAD STEWARDSHIP SABBATH

ALL IN

When Grace Claims Your Whole Life

A 30-minute evangelistic sermon on whole-life stewardship and mission

KEY TEXT 2 Corinthians 8:9 NKJV

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”

Occasion: Annual North American Division Stewardship Sabbath

Audience: Local congregations throughout the North American Division

Primary exposition: 2 Corinthians 8–9

Three movements: Grace came down • Grace takes over • Grace goes out

Prepared for division-wide congregational use

Preaching Map

Central claim: The gospel is God's supreme act of generosity. Jesus went all in for us. When we receive His grace, it takes over our whole lives and sends everything entrusted to us into mission.

Point 1 — Grace Came Down: Before We Ever Gave, God Gave

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:9; John 3:16. Aim: invite hearers to receive salvation as God's gift, not as a wage they can earn.

Point 2 — Grace Takes Over: God Does Not Merely Want What Is in Our Hands; He Wants Us

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1–5. Aim: move from a narrow money-centered view of stewardship to whole-life surrender through the NAD Stewardship 7Ts.

Point 3 — Grace Goes Out: Every Surrendered Steward Becomes Part of God's Mission

Text: 2 Corinthians 9:6–15; 8:18–24. Aim: call for intentional, cheerful, transparent generosity that meets needs, unites the church, and causes thanksgiving to God.

Conclusion and Appeal

Invitation one: give your life to Christ. Invitation two: rededicate every area of life to Christ. Suggested response: stand, come forward if customary, or raise a hand; conclude with a prayer of surrender.

Timing note: The manuscript is designed for approximately 28–32 minutes, including Scripture reading, congregational responses, pauses, and the appeal.

All In

Annual Stewardship Sabbath Message

Opening All In With Grace

* POWERPOINT SLIDE 1 — ALL IN

Display as the congregation settles. Keep this title slide on screen through the welcome and opening paragraphs.

Good morning, church family. Happy Sabbath! This Sabbath we are renewing our understanding of biblical stewardship. Our message today is called All In. Before we talk about what rests in our hands, we must begin with the heart of the One who gave Himself for us.

Stewardship Sabbath is not an annual fundraising drive. It is an annual discipleship renewal—a moment to remember who owns our lives, who supplies our needs, and why everything entrusted to us matters. Biblical stewardship is the grateful response of a redeemed person to the grace of God.

When people say, “I am all in,” they mean more than interest. They mean wholehearted commitment. No divided loyalty. No hidden reserve. No keeping one foot near the exit. Yet biblical stewardship does not begin by demanding that we go all in for God. It begins by revealing that God went all in for us.

The first Steward is God Himself. Before there was a tithe envelope, there was a cross. Before there was an offering plate, there was an empty manger. Before we ever placed anything in God’s hands, the Father placed His only Son in ours. Jesus did not give us a fraction of His love. He gave Himself.

That is why the language of the gospel is the language of giving: “For God so loved the world that He gave.” Love gave. Grace gave. Heaven gave. Jesus went all in for our salvation, and because God gave, sinners can live.

Our primary passage takes us into 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. Paul is encouraging believers in Corinth to complete an offering for suffering believers in Judea. Yet Paul does more than conduct a campaign. He places the offering in the light of Calvary. He teaches that stewardship and mission are inseparable because both flow from Jesus.

Corinth understood commerce. It was a busy, diverse city where goods, ideas, status, and money moved constantly. In that culture, generosity could become a transaction: I give so that I can be honored, noticed, or repaid. Paul announces a different economy—the economy of grace. In God’s kingdom, we do not give to purchase favor. We give because favor has already found us in Jesus Christ.

*** POWERPOINT SLIDE 2 — THE MESSAGE IN ONE BREATH**

Advance as you introduce and lead the congregation in the refrain: Grace came down. Grace takes over. Grace goes out.

Today, I want to place three truths before us. Grace came down. Grace takes over. Grace goes out. These three movements explain what All In means. Grace came down because Jesus gave Himself fully for us. Grace takes over when we give ourselves fully to Him. Grace goes out when our surrendered lives become available for mission. Say the movement with me: Grace came down. Grace takes over. Grace goes out.

THE SERMON IN ONE SENTENCE

Because Jesus went all in for us, we receive His grace, surrender our whole lives to Him, and make everything He has entrusted to us available for mission.

*** POWERPOINT SLIDE 3 — GRACE CAME DOWN**

Advance immediately before Point 1. Keep it displayed through the reading and opening exposition of 2 Corinthians 8:9.

Point 1 — Grace Came Down: Before We Ever Gave, God Gave

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.” —2 Corinthians 8:9, NKJV

Paul compresses the entire plan of salvation into one astonishing sentence. He tells the story of Jesus using the language of wealth and poverty, but he is describing something deeper than currency.

“Though He was rich.” Before Bethlehem, Jesus possessed the glory of heaven. He shared eternal fellowship with the Father. Angels worshiped Him. Creation obeyed His voice. He lacked nothing. He was not trying to climb upward; He was already Lord.

“Yet for your sakes He became poor.” The One who formed the stars entered the world as an infant. The Owner of all things borrowed a manger, borrowed a boat, borrowed a donkey, and was laid in a borrowed tomb. He said that foxes had holes and birds had nests, but the Son of Man had nowhere to lay His head. He accepted rejection, pain, humiliation, and the death of the cross.

Do not misunderstand the text: no one took His riches from Him. Jesus chose the downward road. He did not lose heaven through mismanagement. He left heaven through mission. He became poor “for your sakes.” For your sake. For my sake. For the person carrying secret guilt. For the person who wonders whether God could still want you. At Bethlehem, in Gethsemane, and at Calvary, Jesus held nothing back. Grace came down because Christ went all in for us.

And then Paul says, “that you through His poverty might become rich.” Not necessarily rich in possessions, but rich in pardon. Rich in peace. Rich in adoption. Rich in purpose. Rich in

eternal life. At the cross, Christ took the bankruptcy of our sin so that we could receive the treasury of His righteousness.

Religion often asks, “What can I do to reach God?” The gospel declares, “Look at what God has done to reach you.” Salvation is not a salary paid to good people. It is a gift given to guilty people. You cannot tithe your way into heaven. You cannot volunteer your way into heaven. You cannot eat carefully enough, serve long enough, preach powerfully enough, or give generously enough to erase one sin. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Somebody may say, “But I have gone too far.” Grace came farther. “I have wasted too much.” Grace is richer. “I have failed too often.” Grace is greater than your failure. The blood of Jesus has not lost its power.

The gospel confronts our pride because it tells us we cannot save ourselves. It also cures our despair because it tells us we do not have to save ourselves. Christ has already paid the cost. Our first stewardship decision, then, is not deciding what amount we will give. It is deciding whether we will receive the Gift God has given.

Before Jesus asks for an offering from your hand, He offers salvation to your heart.

On this Stewardship Sabbath, perhaps you have been around church but have never surrendered to Christ. You know the songs, but you do not know the Savior. You know the language of Adventism, but you do not have the assurance of salvation. Hear the good news: Jesus became poor for you. He died your death. He rose from the grave. He offers forgiveness and a new beginning today.

Grace came down. But grace never comes merely to visit. When grace enters a life, grace takes over. This is where All In moves from what Christ has done for us to how we respond to Christ.

*** POWERPOINT SLIDE 4 — GRACE TAKES OVER**

Advance immediately before Point 2 and the reading of 2 Corinthians 8:5.

Point 2 — Grace Takes Over: God Does Not Merely Want What Is in Our Hands; He Wants Us

*“They first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.” —2
Corinthians 8:5, NKJV*

Paul points to the churches of Macedonia. They were experiencing affliction and deep poverty, yet they overflowed with joy and generosity. Their circumstances said, “Hold back.” Grace said, “Open your life.” Their bank balance was limited, but their surrender was not.

What was their secret? Paul does not say they first gave their money. He says they first gave themselves to the Lord. Their gift followed their heart because their heart already belonged to Jesus.

This is the decisive order of Christian stewardship: first, the person; then, the possessions. God is not fundraising; God is forming disciples whose entire lives say, “Jesus, I belong to You.” When the heart is withheld, any gift can become performance. When the heart is surrendered, even a small gift becomes worship. This is what it means to be all in with Jesus: not giving what we do not have, but withholding nothing He has already entrusted to us.

*** POWERPOINT SLIDE 5 — WHAT ALL IN LOOKS LIKE THE NAD STEWARDSHIP 7Ts**

Advance as you introduce the 7Ts. Keep it displayed while naming Time, Temple, Talents, Treasure, Trust, Theology, and Testimony.

This is where the NAD Stewardship 7Ts approach helps us see what All In looks like. Seventh-day Adventists affirm that God entrusts us with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the resources of this world. Stewardship is not merely one financial department of life. It is whole-life management under the lordship of Jesus. The first four Ts are tangible: Time, Temple, Talents, and Treasure. The final three are foundational: Trust, Theology, and Testimony.

Time: Lord, My Days Belong to You

Grace takes over our Time. Every morning is an undeserved deposit from God—twenty-four hours we did not manufacture and cannot store. We give God time in worship and Scripture. We give our families attentive time. We refuse to let hurry, entertainment, or endless scrolling consume the days entrusted to us. And on Sabbath, we confess with our schedule that God is Creator, Redeemer, and Provider. Sabbath is not lost time; it is redeemed time.

Temple: Lord, My Body Belongs to You

Grace takes over the Temple of the body. Jesus did not save a disembodied bank account; He redeemed the whole person. Therefore, rest, nourishment, movement, temperance, and emotional care are not merely lifestyle accessories. They are ways of presenting our bodies to God for service. We care for the temple not to earn God’s love but because we have received it—and because mission needs living, healthy, available disciples.

Talents: Lord, My Abilities Belong to You

Grace takes over our Talents. Some can preach; others can teach, organize, repair, cook, counsel, design, sing, mentor, interpret, lead, welcome, or listen. Mission does not happen only behind a pulpit. The Holy Spirit turns ordinary abilities into kingdom instruments. The question is not, “Do I have a gift?” The question is, “Have I placed my gift at Christ’s disposal?”

Even our care for the earth entrusted to humanity belongs here: skill and responsibility used for the good of God's creation and our neighbors.

Treasure: Lord, My Resources Belong to You

Grace takes over our Treasure. We recognize God as Owner through faithful tithe and purposeful offerings. We reject both greed and financial chaos. We plan, save wisely, reduce harmful debt, provide for our families, and make room for generosity. Paul says the giver should decide beforehand and give in proportion to what one has—not impulsively, manipulatively, or grudgingly. Grace does not make stewardship careless; grace makes stewardship intentional.

Trust: Lord, You Are My Provider

Beneath the visible pillars is Trust. We can release what is in our hand because we trust the One who holds tomorrow. The Macedonians did not wait for perfect conditions. They knew that security is not finally found in accumulation but in God. Trust is not financial irresponsibility. Trust is obedient planning without making money our god.

Theology: Lord, Your Word Defines Reality

Theology is what we believe about God. If God is Owner, then I am a steward. If God is Provider, then I do not have to live in fear. If Christ gave Himself for me, then stewardship is my grateful response. Bad theology asks, "How little can I give and remain respectable?" Gospel theology asks, "How much of me belongs to Jesus?" The answer is: all of me.

Testimony: Lord, I Will Tell What You Have Done

Grace takes over our Testimony. Mission becomes personal when a redeemed person tells another person, "This is what Jesus has done for me." Your testimony may begin at a dinner table, in a workplace conversation, during a hospital visit, or while listening to a neighbor. You do not need to know every answer. You need to know the One who found you.

Do you see the wholeness? My Time makes room for mission. My Temple gives strength for mission. My Talents provide capacity for mission. My Treasure supplies resources for mission. My Trust gives courage for mission. My Theology supplies truth for mission. My Testimony gives mission a human voice.

The 7Ts are not seven separate lives. They are seven ways one surrendered life says, "Jesus, I am Yours." This is All In stewardship.

It is possible to return ten percent and keep ninety percent of your life outside God's control. It is possible to give an offering while withholding forgiveness. It is possible to fund mission but

refuse to speak to your neighbor. The Macedonians challenge every compartment: “They first gave themselves to the Lord.”

Today, the question is not simply, “What are you giving?” The deeper question is, “Who has you?” Are you all in with Jesus? Does He have your calendar? Your body? Your gifts? Your accounts? Your anxieties? Your convictions? Your story?

Grace came down. Grace takes over. And when grace takes over, grace goes out. An all-in life becomes a life available for God’s mission.

*** POWERPOINT SLIDE 6 — GRACE GOES OUT**

Advance immediately before Point 3 and the reading of 2 Corinthians 9:7. Keep it displayed while introducing planned, cheerful, accountable, Christ-centered generosity.

Point 3 — Grace Goes Out: Every Surrendered Steward Becomes Part of God’s Mission

“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” —2 Corinthians 9:7, NKJV

The offering in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 had a destination. Believers in Judea were suffering, and churches in other regions were invited to respond. Stewardship became mission because grace moved from one life toward another need.

This is a critical distinction. Biblical generosity is not random disposal. It is grace with an address. It sees a hungry family, a struggling congregation, a child who needs Christian education, a community longing for hope, a city where people do not know Jesus, and asks, “What has God placed in my care that can serve His purpose here?”

Paul teaches at least four mission habits in these chapters.

Mission Giving Is Planned

Paul says each person should purpose in the heart. The word carries the idea of deciding beforehand. In other words, generosity should not depend entirely on the emotional temperature of a meeting. Planned giving says, “Mission will have a place in my budget because mission has a place in my heart.” Prayerfully planned generosity protects our priorities from our impulses.

God Himself planned to give. Calvary was not heaven’s emergency reaction. Revelation presents Christ as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The gospel is the result of holy intention. When we plan our giving, we faintly reflect the deliberate generosity of God.

Mission Giving Is Proportionate and Voluntary

The Macedonians gave according to their ability and, through grace, beyond what anyone expected. Paul never asks them to pretend they possess what they do not have. He says acceptability is according to what a person has. The same dollar amount will not represent the same sacrifice for every household. God is not comparing our totals; He is examining our trust and love.

Neither poverty nor prosperity automatically produces generosity. A closed heart can live in a mansion or a studio apartment. An open heart can begin with whatever God has already provided. We do not wait until we feel rich enough to obey, because generosity is not the privilege of millionaires. It is the fruit of discipleship.

Mission Giving Is Cheerful

“God loves a cheerful giver.” This does not mean God loves cheerful givers more than reluctant people; His redeeming love reaches us before our attitude improves. It means cheerful giving reflects His own heart. God did not send Jesus while resenting us. Christ did not go to Calvary under human compulsion. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross. Gospel joy loosens the grip of fear.

Cheerfulness is not shallow excitement about losing money. It is deep gladness that my life can participate in something eternal. What a privilege that an hour of my time can encourage a child; that my talent can strengthen a ministry; that my testimony can introduce a friend to Christ; that my offering can carry the gospel to a place my feet may never visit.

Mission Giving Is Accountable and Unifying

Paul was careful about how the collection was handled. Trusted representatives were chosen by the churches. He wanted what was honorable not only before God but also before people. Spiritual passion and financial integrity are not rivals. Accountability protects the mission, the giver, the leader, and the witness of the gospel.

The offering also united Jewish and Gentile believers. People separated by ethnicity, geography, history, and culture became one family through Christ. The gift said, “Your suffering matters to us because your Savior is our Savior.” In a fragmented world, shared mission teaches the church to cross lines that society keeps drawing.

Our North American communities are filled with languages, generations, stories, and needs. The mission field is not only across an ocean; it is across the street, across the cubicle, across the hallway, and sometimes across the dinner table. Mission may look like a Bible study, a health ministry, food for a family, mentoring a young person, visiting someone who is incarcerated or isolated, planting a congregation, supporting an evangelistic series, or simply listening before we speak.

A relational approach to mission can be summarized by five movements: begin with prayer, listen, eat together, serve, and then share. The sequence matters. Mission is not a sales pitch. It is the overflow of Christ's love through a surrendered life.

Notice where it begins: prayer. That is the stewardship of Time. Listening and eating together engage the Temple and relationships. Serving releases Talents. Supporting the work employs Treasure. Stepping beyond comfort requires Trust. Sharing Jesus rests on Theology. Telling what He has done is Testimony. The 7Ts do not compete with mission; they mobilize the whole person for mission.

A steward asks, “What has God entrusted to me?” A missionary asks, “Whom can it bless?” In the gospel, those are two halves of the same all-in calling.

Paul says generosity supplies needs, produces thanksgiving, proves obedience to the gospel, and deepens fellowship. The final result is worship. People receive help, but praise rises to God. The giver does not become the hero; Jesus does.

Then Paul concludes, “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” After two chapters about the churches’ offering, Paul ends with God’s offering. Why? Because every stream of Christian generosity must lead us back to its Source. We may give time, skill, money, service, and witness, but God gave Jesus. Our gifts are echoes. Christ is the Gift. Grace came down because God went all in.

*** POWERPOINT SLIDE 7 — WILL YOU GO ALL IN**

Advance at the beginning of the conclusion. Keep this slide on screen through both invitations and the prayer of surrender.

Conclusion All In With the Open Hands of Jesus

Let us gather the message.

Grace came down: though Christ was rich, for our sake He became poor. Salvation is God's gift to sinners. Jesus went all in for us.

Grace takes over: like the Macedonians, we first give ourselves to the Lord. Time, Temple, Talents, Treasure, Trust, Theology, and Testimony come under the lordship of Jesus. We go all in with Christ.

Grace goes out: our surrendered lives become channels through which God meets needs, unites His church, and carries the gospel to the world. An all-in life becomes available for mission.

Imagine holding your life with a tightly closed fist. Inside that fist are your plans, your health, your abilities, your finances, your fears, your beliefs, and your story. A closed fist may feel safe, but it cannot receive and it cannot release. Jesus stands before us with open hands, hands once pierced for our salvation. He does not ask us to entrust ourselves to a stranger. His scars prove that He went all in for us.

The call of stewardship is not, "Give until God finally loves you." The call is, "Because God has loved you completely in Christ, go all in with Jesus. Place your whole life in His hands."

Appeal Two Invitations One Savior

Today I want to make two invitations.

First Invitation: Give Your Life to Christ

Perhaps you have never truly accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord. Maybe you have attended church, but your heart is still carrying guilt. Maybe you drifted far from God and wondered whether the road home was still open. Today, grace has come down for you.

You cannot buy this salvation. You cannot earn it. You can receive it. Jesus died for your sins, rose again, and offers you forgiveness, a new heart, and eternal life. If today you want to say, "Jesus, I receive Your gift. Forgive me. Save me. I give my life to You. I am all in," I invite you to stand where you are—or come forward, according to the custom of this congregation.

Do not wait until you can repair yourself. Come because you need the Savior. Come because His poverty can make you rich in grace. Come because His open hands are reaching for you.

Second Invitation: Rededicate Your Whole Life

There are others who belong to Christ, but the Spirit has shown you a room in your life that has been locked. You may be faithful with Treasure but careless with Time. You may protect the Temple but bury your Talents. You may know correct Theology but hesitate to share your Testimony. You may have resources but still struggle to Trust.

If you want to say, “Lord, I rededicate all seven areas to You—my Time, Temple, Talents, Treasure, Trust, Theology, and Testimony. I am all in with Jesus. Make my life an offering. Make my life a mission,” I invite you also to stand or come forward.

This is not a pledge to human perfection. It is an act of surrender to divine grace. The same Christ who calls you will empower you. The same God who supplies seed to the sower will supply what you need for every good work.

Prayer of Surrender

Father in heaven, we thank You for Your indescribable Gift. Before we sought You, You came looking for us. Before we gave anything, You gave Jesus. Grace came down because You went all in to save us.

For every person responding for salvation, let the assurance of the gospel settle deeply today. Forgive sin. Break chains. Replace shame with the righteousness of Christ. Write each name in the Lamb’s book of life, and lead each new believer toward baptism, fellowship, and faithful discipleship.

For every disciple rededicating life, receive us again. We place our Time before You—order our days. We place our Temple before You—strengthen us for service. We place our Talents before You—use every gift. We place our Treasure before You—make us faithful and generous. Deepen our Trust. Ground us in sound Theology. Give power and tenderness to our Testimony.

Unite Your church. Meet needs through us. Send us across streets and across seas. Let our planning be prayerful, our giving cheerful, our leadership accountable, and our mission centered in Christ.

We give ourselves first to You. Take our lives and let them be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. By Your grace, we are all in with Jesus. May everything we are and everything we manage cause thanksgiving to rise to You.

In the saving, risen, soon-coming name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Preacher Closing Notes

Suggested response sequence

Pause after the first invitation. Allow instrumental music if available. Make the salvation invitation distinct before broadening to rededication. Ask a pastor or elder to note and follow up with those requesting baptism, Bible study, or restoration.

Optional congregational refrain

Leader: Grace came down.

Congregation: Jesus gave Himself for us.

Leader: Grace takes over.

Congregation: We give ourselves to the Lord.

Leader: Grace goes out.

Congregation: Send us into Your mission.

Leader: Are you all in?

Congregation: By grace, we are all in with Jesus.

Primary biblical texts

2 Corinthians 8:1–5, 8–12, 16–24; 2 Corinthians 9:6–15; John 3:16; Philippians 2:5–8; Romans 12:1; Revelation 13:8.

Sources consulted

North American Division Stewardship Ministries, “7Ts of Stewardship.” <https://www.nadstewardship.org/home/7ts-of-stewardship/>

North American Division Stewardship Ministries, “Stewardship Sabbath.” <https://www.nadstewardship.org/resources/stewardship-sabbath/>

North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, “Fundamental Belief 21: Stewardship.” <https://www.nadadventist.org/beliefs/stewardship/>

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are from the New King James Version.