When We Need to Be “Liberal”
2 Cor. 9:6-13

Introduction:
A. “Liberal” has a variety of meanings and connotations.
   1. “Not strict or literal; loose or approximate: a liberal translation.” (MS Bookshelf Dictionary)
      a. Political connotations.
      b. Religious connotations.
      c. “Brotherhood” connotations.
   2. “Tending to give freely; generous: a liberal benefactor”. (Ibid.)
B. “Liberal” is sometimes good and sometimes bad.
   1. We should be conservative rather than liberal in our interpretation and application Scriptures (2 John 9-11; Rev. 22:18,19; 1 Cor. 4:6; cf. Matt. 22:32; Gal. 3:16).
   2. We should be liberal rather than skimpy in many areas:

Discussion:
I. We Need to Be Liberal in Our Giving (2 Cor. 9:13).
   A. First, in the giving of ourselves (2 Cor. 8:5).
   B. Then, in the giving of our goods. (2 Cor 9:6-7).
      1. The early church at Jerusalem.
II. We Need to Be Liberal (Abounding) in the Lord’s Work (1 Cor. 15:58).
   A. Two attitudes contrasted — “sparingly” versus “bountifully” (cf. 2 Cor. 9:6).
      1. One says, “As little as I can get by with...”
      2. Other says, “As much as I can do consistent with all my duties.” (Cf. 2nd mile - Matt. 5:39-41)
      3. Not “how much do I have to do”, but “how much can I do?”
      4. Many say not getting much out of their religion — may be sowing sparingly.
   B. In assembling with saints (Heb. 10:25).
      1. The Lord’s day assembly.
      2. Other assemblies for worship and edification.
   C. In studying our Bibles (Acts 17:11).
   D. In Evangelism (Sowing the seed of the kingdom).
   E. In good works in general (cf. Gal. 6:10).
      1. Rich rather than poor in good works (1 Tim. 6:18).
      2. “Abound in everything ...” (2 Cor. 8:7).
III. We Need to Be Liberal (Abound) in the “Christian Graces” (2 Pet. 1:8).
   A. Do we want to add as little of each of these as possible? (Note each one).
   B. Or, do we want to strive to have as much of each one as possible?

Conclusion:
A. Let us learn to be liberal these things for Lord’s sake, the church’s sake and our sake.
B. How successful would we be in any other field with a “just enough to get by” attitude.
   1. In the home.
   2. In business.
   3. In recreation.