

# Essential #1

## Bayou Chazown – Part 2

### March 12, 2023

*“Where there is no **vision/chazown**, the people perish.” Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)*

**The Bayou Church’s Forever Chazown: Transforming lives, in Acadiana, through Christ-centered relationships.**

**The Bayou Church’s Today Chazown: Decades: Building on the Past, to Shape the Future.**

**Let’s talk about two things that are absolute essentials for us to live out our “today” chazown and our “forever” chazown as a church.**

**Remember:**

- People get defensive when you mess with their idols.
- God is not after your money. He is after your heart.
- I’m going first.
- If you’re a guest, we’re not asking you to give.
- You don’t have to give to The Bayou Church, but if you’re a disciple of Jesus you better be giving to wherever your home church is.
- [Thebayouchurch.org/FPU](http://Thebayouchurch.org/FPU)

**God establishes the principle of the tithe in the Old Testament. (Gen 14:20)**

**Biblical Tithe = Giving the first 10% of my gross income to my home church.**

*“Bring all the tithes into the **storehouse** so there will be enough **food** in My Temple. **If you do,**” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!” Malachi 3:10 (NLT)*

**The Old Testament sets the floor. The New Testament opens the ceiling.**

*“Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in His kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. <sup>2</sup>They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant **joy**, which has overflowed in rich **generosity**.*

*<sup>3</sup>For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. <sup>4</sup>They begged us again and again for the **privilege** of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup>They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.*

<sup>6</sup>So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to **finish** this ministry of giving. <sup>7</sup>Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to **excel also in this gracious act of giving**.

<sup>8</sup>I am not commanding you to do this. But I am **testing** how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.

<sup>9</sup>You know the **generous** grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet **for your sakes** He became poor, so that by His poverty He could make you rich.

<sup>10</sup>Here is my advice: It would be good for you to **finish what you started a year ago**. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. <sup>11</sup>Now you should **finish** what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in **proportion** to what you have. <sup>12</sup>**Whatever** you give is acceptable if you give it **eagerly**. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. <sup>13</sup>Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some **equality**. ...

<sup>20</sup>We are traveling together to guard against any criticism for the way we are handling this generous gift. <sup>21</sup>We are careful to be honorable before the Lord, but we also want everyone else to see that we are honorable." 2 Corinthians 8:1-13, 20-21 (NLT)

"<sup>11</sup> ... And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. <sup>12</sup>So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the **needs** of the believers in Jerusalem will be **met**, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. <sup>13</sup>As a result of your ministry, they will give **glory** to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will **prove** that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ." 2 Corinthians 9:11-13 (NLT)

**Decades is happening because so many of you are **already** giving!**

**Would you join us?**

**March 26th**

**1-Year Decades Anniversary**

**[thebayouchurch.org/cc](http://thebayouchurch.org/cc)**

- Option 1 - I previously committed to Decades and I intend to finish strong!
- Option 2 - I previously committed to Decades and I want to increase my commitment!
- Option 3 - I would like to make a new, one-year commitment to Decades.
- Every new dollar given will be matched up to \$1,100,000.

**Would you make a commitment on March 26th and help us see this God-given Decades Chazown to the finish line?**

