

“The Grace Of Giving”  
2 Corinthians 8:1-24  
1/9/22  
Message 13

## **Introduction**

- Title of the Message is: “The Grace Of Giving”

## **• Review**

- **We’re in the middle of a study in the book of 2 Corinthians**
  - Paul has written this letter
    - After Receiving word from Titus that the Corinthians had responded to 1 Corinthians
  - Remember - 1 Corinthians was a Corrective Letter –
    - They did not like being corrected – But of course who does...
    - But the Good News – Many did respond and REPENT
  - Paul is very happy to hear that MANY of the Corinthians have Repented
    - Even though Paul still has some Nay Sayers in Corinth
    - Paul Writes this letter to Encouragement & in Defense of his Apostleship
- **Last time we look at Chapter 7**
  - “Ye Are In Our Hearts”
  - Paul deals with the struggle of confrontation
  - I love this verse

## **2 Corinthians 7:3 (NKJV)**

**3** *I do not say this to condemn; for I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.*

- And then

## **2 Corinthians 7:8–10 (NKJV)**

**8** *For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while.*

**9** *Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.*

**10** *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*

## **• Now To Chapter 8 & 9 - Brings Up the Subject of Giving!!!**

### ○ **Context**

- Remember Paul Started conversation in 1 Corinthians 16
  - Why?
    - The need to collect an Offering for the saints in Jerusalem
- Why the Need?
  - The Christians in Jerusalem were suffering
  - 1<sup>st</sup> A great famine had devastated the area
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Their Failed attempt at Socialism
- So - Paul asked ALL the Gentile churches to mount a relief effort to aid the Jewish Christians
  - Not only to help in the NEED

- BUT to bring about a UNITY that was missing in the early church
- Now as we will see the Other Churches were doing a great job
  - BUT Corinthian was NOT
- **NOW for the RECORD**
  - This is **My Least Favorite** TOPIC in ALL the Bible to Talk about
  - Why?!
    - It has Been abused
    - Illustration
      - Church service I Watched the other day
        - Spent several Minutes during the prayer time before the offering exhorting people not to be Hoarders, ect...
        - Had them come up front to give their offerings
      - Or How many TV guys seen begging for money
        - As If God was BROKE
    - Never want to be known for begging for money...
      - Where God Guides, He Provides
- **Calvary CP Biblical Philosophy**
  - I Don't Know WHO gives or HOW much anyone gives
    - I don't ASK – and they know NOT to tell

- All I see is a total for budget purposes
- We Have Good Men of God watching over this ministry
  - Vic, Mark, Sam, Wayne,
- We may make people aware of a need BUT we will never ask / beg for MONEY
- **Question – How MUCH should we Give?**
  - Now The Question always comes up HOW much do I GIVE?
    - A Tithe or Something Else?
- **Answer...**
  - A Tithe?!
    - Is this a New Testament teaching?
  - Different Opinions
    - There are GOOD pastors on BOTH sides of the Issue
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Those Who Believe in a Tithe
      - Say the NT never did away with the Tithe
      - That Jesus confirmed the Tithe when He was talking with the Pharisees

**Luke 11:42 (NKJV)**

**42** *“But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.*

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Those Who DON'T believe the NT teaches a Tithe
  - They point to the fact that NO where in the NT does God say give a tithe

- **SO Let's Look at the Scriptures**

- The OT teaches a Tithe
  - It is all over the OT
  - God Instruction to Moses

***Leviticus 27:30–33 (NKJV)***

**30** *And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD.*

**31** *If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it.*

**32** *And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD.*

**33** *He shall not inquire whether it is good or bad, nor shall he exchange it; and if he exchanges it at all, then both it and the one exchanged for it shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.' ”*

***Malachi 3:10 (NKJV)***

**10** *Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.*

- The tithe simply means “the tenth” or “ten percent.”
  - Israel gave ten percent of their flocks, of their grain, and of their fruit to God
  - This tithe, the ten percent, was sacred and separated unto God (It is holy to the LORD).
- The New Testament
    - It does NOT command or emphasize tithing
      - It presents giving as a duty for God's people and does not speak negatively of tithing.

- Guzik; NOW the NT does give many principles for the giving of believers under the New Covenant.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Giving is commanded and is not an option (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Giving is to be regular, planned, and proportional. It should never be manipulated (1 Corinthians 16:2)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> True giving comes as we first give ourselves to the Lord, then we will give our financial resources as we should (2 Corinthians 8:5)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Giving cannot be commanded of any individual believer at a particular moment, not even by an apostle (2 Corinthians 8:8)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Giving is a valid test of the sincerity of our love for God and others (2 Corinthians 8:8)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Giving should be seen as investing money, not as spending money (2 Corinthians 9:6)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Giving should be not grudging or of necessity (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- 8<sup>th</sup> God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Giving must always include giving to the ministries that directly feed us spiritually (1 Corinthians 9:7-13)
- Because the New Testament emphasis is on giving more than tithing, there is no one answer to the question, “How much am I supposed to give?”
- Many people go back to the Old Testament law of the tithe. Since giving is to be proportional (1 Corinthians 16:2), we should be giving some percentage – and ten percent is a good benchmark – a starting place!

- **Thoughts on Money**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Money is not sinful in and of itself – the problem is the “love of money” (1 Timothy 6:9-10)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Money can give you a false sense of security (Luke 12:13-21; 1 Timothy 6:17-18)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Money can become more important to you than the treasures of heaven (Matthew 6:19-24)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Money can keep you from following Jesus Christ (Matthew 19:16-26)

- **So this Morning let's look at 2 Main Principle in Giving**

- Examples & Encouragement vs. 1-9
- Exhortation on Giving vs. 10-24

### **Examples & Encouragement vs. 1-9**

- **First: The example of the Macedonian Christians vs. 1-5**

- **1<sup>st</sup> The GRACE of God v. 1a**

**2 Corinthians 8:1 (NKJV)**

**1 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:**

- **Context**
  - Paul will now write about other churches and their example in giving
- **Giving is a gift from the grace of God.**
  - The Greek Word for Grace (Charis) –
    - Means that which affords joy, pleasure, delight; good will, loving-kindness, favor

- This is going to be a key word for the next 2 chapters.
  - It occurs 6 times in chapter 8
  - And Several times in chapter 9
- Now in Chapter 8
  - You will count GRACE - 4 times!!!
  - The Other 2 times the word GIFT is used (8:4,19)
  - The Word GIFT in the GREEK is the same word (Charis)
- SO It's important to remember that one of the root concepts behind the word for "grace" is the idea of a "gift".
- The Grace of God is all about what God gives us, freely, without any conditions
- **2<sup>nd</sup> The churches of Macedonia v. 1b**

**2 Corinthians 8:1 (NKJV)**

**1 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:**

- The northern part of Greece
  - Was called Macedonia
- The southern part of Greece
  - Was called Achaia, and the city of Corinth was in the region of Achaia
- Paul writes about the example he sees in the churches of Macedonia.

- The churches of Macedonia were in cities such as Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea.

○ **3<sup>rd</sup> Through Hardship They Gave v. 2**

**2 Corinthians 8:2 (NKJV)**

*2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.*

- The Macedonians GAVE
  - Even though they were in a great trial of affliction and DEEP Poverty!
  - They still gave generously (abounded in the riches of their liberality)
- The poverty of the Macedonians is confirmed by secular history.
  - The Romans took most of their wealth when they conquered this former homeland of Alexander the Great.
- **LESSON –**
  - We MUST always Go Upward (To God) and Outwards (To Others) – even in TRIALS
  - The Temptation when we face Trials...
    - Is to go INWARD
    - This leads to selfishness and pity parties
  - Always Look to God and Others

○ **4<sup>th</sup> For I bear witness vs. 3-4**

**2 Corinthians 8:3 (NKJV)**

*3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,*

- **Paul knew that the Macedonians gave in 3 ways.**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> They gave according to their ability
    - In the sense that in total, their gift wasn't very much.
    - It was not a "large" gift in a total dollar sense.
    - Widow's giving in Luke 21:1-4
    - Giving is proportionate—God sets no fixed amount or percentage and expects His people to give based on what they have (Luke 6:38; 1 Cor. 16:2)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Beyond their ability = Giving is sacrificial
    - Giving will cost us at times
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Freely Willing = Giving is voluntary
    - Since their heart was freely willing to give, and they gave in proportion to the little they did have, they gave beyond their ability.
- They actually Begged Paul to allow them to GIVE

### ***2 Corinthians 8:4 (NKJV)***

*4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.*

- So urgent were they in the matter that they begged Paul for the privilege of sharing in the relief of the Jerusalem saints.
- Perhaps the apostle hesitated to accept their kindness, knowing how poor they were themselves at the time.
- But they would not take "no" for an answer.

- They wanted to be allowed to give

- **5<sup>th</sup> Not as we hoped:**

**2 Corinthians 8:5 (NKJV)**

*5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.*

- The Macedonian Christians gave far beyond what Paul hoped for.
- What made their giving so spectacular?
  - Wasn't the dollar amount.
  - It was that they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.
  - Why were the Macedonians such good examples of giving?
    - Because they first gave themselves to the Lord; then they gave their trust to Paul and the other apostles.
- **Lesson**
  - In giving, the real issue isn't giving money.
  - It is giving ourselves to the Lord -
  - If we really give ourselves to the Lord, then the right kind of material giving will naturally follow.

**• Second: Paul's tender, wise encouragement in giving vs. 6-8**

- **1<sup>st</sup> So we urged Titus v. 6**

**2 Corinthians 8:6 (NKJV)**

**6** *So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well.*

- Titus

- A man who helped Paul a lot –

- Paul Sent him to Crete to do a tough job
- Titus is One who brought them the letter
- Was also to make the collection
- That they actually followed through on what they had intended to do earlier.

- Complete this Grace:

- The Corinthian Christians may have

- Intended to give.
- They may have thought about giving.
- They may have been favorable to the idea of giving.

- Yet all of this was useless unless

- If they did in fact complete this grace.

- Lesson:

- Our Intentions, vows, and resolutions are useless without action.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> As you abound in everything v. 7**

**2 Corinthians 8:7 (NKJV)**

**7** *But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.*

- **It wasn't All BAD**

- Since the Corinthians were so outstanding in many ways (and they were)
- Paul now wants them to excel in the matter of giving.
- He gives them credit for abounding in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence (earnestness), and in their love for him

- **The fact that Paul uses the ancient Greek word charis to describe financial giving means a few things.**

- The ability to give and the heart to give is a free gift from God.
- Giving is a work of God's grace in us.
- When you see a believer who is truly generous, a great work of God has been done in their heart.

- **Lesson**

- Our giving should be like God's giving of grace to us
  - Giving freely, generously, because we want to give.
- Our giving, like God's grace to us, should be offered without expectation of payment in return.
  - God does not give to us expecting "payback."
  - We can never repay God.
  - We can just serve Him and love Him in return.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> I speak not by commandment v. 8a**

**2 Corinthians 8:8 (NKJV)**

**8 I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.**

- Paul isn't commanding the Corinthian Christians to give.
- Paul knew that giving from Commandment isn't giving at all...
  - We call that kind of giving taxation

**• Third: The second example of giving: our Lord Jesus v. 9**

○ **1<sup>st</sup> You know the grace of our Lord Jesus v. 9a**

**2 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV)**

**9 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.**

- Paul means, "You know the giving of our Lord Jesus."
  - WHAT HE HAVE – FOR

○ **Though He was rich v. 9b**

**2 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV)**

**9 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.**

- When was Jesus rich?
  - Before He added humanity to His deity and walked this earth.
  - Here, Paul subtly, but definitely, points to the deity of Jesus.

○ **3<sup>rd</sup> Yet for your sakes He became poor v. 9c**

## **2 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV)**

**9** 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.

- Jesus lived His earthly life as a poor man

## **Matthew 8:20 (NKJV)**

**20** And Jesus said to him, “*Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.*”

- He choose to live WITHOUT
- **Why would Jesus need to become poor for your sakes? How does His poverty benefit us?**
  - Because it shows us the giving heart of God.
  - Because it shows us the relative importance of material things.
  - Because it makes Jesus open and accessible to all.
  - Because it rebukes the pride that might refuse to come to a poor Savior.
  - Because it gave others the privilege of giving to Jesus.
  - Because it fulfilled the heart and will and plan of God, making our salvation possible.
- **4<sup>th</sup> That you through His poverty might become rich v. 9d**

## **2 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV)**

**9** 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.

- Because of Jesus' poverty and all that was related to it, we can become rich.

- We have a share in Jesus' eternal, heavenly wealth because He came and had a share in our poverty.

## **Exhortation on Giving vs. 10-24**

### **• First: Follow through on your previous willingness vs. 10-12**

#### **○ 1<sup>st</sup> Now you also must complete the doing of it vs. 10-11**

#### **2 Corinthians 8:10–11 (NKJV)**

**10** *And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago;*

**11** *but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have.*

- The Corinthian Christians previously expressed a desiring and a readiness to give.
- Now, they actually had to do it!

#### **○ 2<sup>nd</sup> If there is first a willing mind:**

#### **2 Corinthians 8:12 (NKJV)**

**12** *For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.*

- **God looks for readiness and a willing mind.**
  - These are the true marks of a generous heart before God and are no more likely among the rich than the poor.
- **Lesson**
  - If you're NOT willing – then are you really GIVING?!
- **It is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have:**
  - Again, God does not expect us to give what we do not have.

- True Christian giving cannot be measured by the amount.
- One might give a million dollars and yet not give enough; another may give one dollar and give with tremendous sacrifice and generosity.
- True giving is measured by obedience, proportion, and need, not by amount.

• **Second: Understand the cause you give to vs. 13-15**

**2 Corinthians 8:13–15 (NKJV)**

**13** *For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened;*  
**14** *but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality.*  
**15** *As it is written, “He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.”*

- **1<sup>st</sup> For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened:**
  - The Corinthian Christians were not giving so that the Jerusalem Christians would get rich and lazy at their expense.
  - Paul was taking the collection so the Jerusalem Christians could merely survive.
  - The goal was not to burden the Corinthian Christians
  - Nor was it to make it easy for the Jerusalem Christians.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> But by an Equality**
  - Paul sees that the spiritual abundance of the Jerusalem Christians has blessed the Corinthian Christians.
  - Therefore, it should be a small thing for the Corinthian Christians to share with them their material abundance.

- NOTE –

- The equality Paul mentions here isn't meant to imply socialism or communism, where all are said to live at the same economic level, and none are supposed to be richer than others are.
- Communism and socialism themselves are evil
- Being noble ideas in theory but absolute tyrannies when sharing is commanded at the end of a gun.
- This is not the kind of equality Paul means anyway.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Now at this time**

- Paul reminds the Corinthian Christians that this is just the way it is right now.
- There may be a time later when YOU WILL NEED THE HELP

- **4<sup>th</sup> He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack:**

- Paul's quotation from Exodus 16:18 illustrates his principle.
- Everyone gathered what they could, some more and some less; but they all shared what they gathered.

- **Third: How to receive Titus when he and his companions come for the collection vs. 16-24**

**2 Corinthians 8:16–24 (NKJV)**

**16** But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus.

**17** For he not only accepted the exhortation, but being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord.

**18** And we have sent with him the brother whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches,

**19** and not only that, but who was also chosen by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us to the glory of the Lord Himself and to show your ready mind,

**20** avoiding this: that anyone should blame us in this lavish gift which is administered by us—

**21** providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

**22** And we have sent with them our brother whom we have often proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, because of the great confidence which we have in you.

**23** If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren are inquired about, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.

**24** Therefore show to them, and before the churches the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf.

○ **1<sup>st</sup> But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus:**

- Paul's intention is to recommend Titus to them as a trustworthy bearer of their money.

○ **2<sup>nd</sup> And we have sent with him the brother whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches:**

- Commentators have had a field day trying to identify the brother mentioned here.
- Who is he? WE DON'T KNOW

○ **3<sup>rd</sup> Avoiding this: that anyone should blame us in this lavish gift:**

- Paul wisely avoided any gossip about his role in the collection
- By sending Titus and his companion to collect it, and to accompany Paul in carrying it to Jerusalem.

○ **4<sup>th</sup> Lesson – Men Chosen to Handle the Money MUST BE of Good Character**

- Listen to their credentials!
  - A willing heart v. 16
  - Of his own accord v. 17
  - Diligent v. 19
  - Partner & fellow worker v. 22
  - A glory to Christ v. 23b

## **Closing**

- How To GIVE

### **2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV)**

*7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*