

Home Group Helps

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Christian Generosity

I. The Example of the Macedonians (v.1-7) – Now, brethren, we *wish* to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, ² that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. ³ For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, *they gave* of their own accord, ⁴ begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, ⁵ and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. ⁶ So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well. ⁷ But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, *see* that you abound in this gracious work also.

II. The Example of the Christ (v.8-10) – ⁸ I am not speaking *this* as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. ¹⁰ I give *my* opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do *this*, but also to desire *to do it*.

III. The Expectations for the Corinthians/Christians (v.11-15) – ¹¹ But now finish doing it also, so that just as *there was* the readiness to desire it, so *there may be* also the completion of it by your ability. ¹² For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what *a person* has, not according to what he does not have. ¹³ For *this* is not for the ease of others *and* for your affliction, but by way of equality-- ¹⁴ at this present time your abundance *being a supply* for their need, so that their abundance also may become *a supply* for your need, that there may be equality; ¹⁵ as it is written, "HE WHO *gathered* MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO *gathered* LITTLE HAD NO LACK."

Home Group Helps Questions

1. Launching Question(s):

- Can you think of a time someone was unexpectedly generous to you?

2. Observation Question(s):

- What are some potential objections to churches talking about/teaching about money?
- What are some Biblical justifications for churches talking about/teaching about money?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- The offering being gathered by the Corinthian Church (and the churches of Macedonia) was a one-time gift for the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem (see 1 Cor. 16:1-4).
- Can the same principles of generosity be applied to tithing?
- What was Paul's "theological" goal(s) in encouraging this donation?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Read the account of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10.
- How do we know that Zacchaeus was saved:
 - From verses 9 & 10 of Luke's account?
 - From verse 8 of Luke's account?
- Kent Hughes said, "When we know that our lives are not our own, neither will we think that our possessions are our own."
- How does this quote apply to Zacchaeus?

5. Application Question(s):

- If you are not giving generously, will you start doing so this week?

March 20th, AD 2022