

2 Corinthians Chapter 8

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Points in 2 Corinthians Chapter 8

1. Macedonia's example in giving (1-5)
2. Paul's exhortations to the Corinthians (6-15)
3. The messengers administering the collection (16-24)

1. What did God give to the churches of Macedonia?

2 Corinthians 8:1

¹ Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you **the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,**

The grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia

2A. What was the condition of the churches in Macedonia?

2 Corinthians 8:2

² that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

A

1. Great ordeal of affliction
2. Deep poverty

B. What did they have in abundance?

1. Abundance of joy
2. Overflowed in the wealth of their liberality

2A. What was the condition of the churches in Macedonia?

2 Thessalonians 1:4

**4 therefore, we ourselves speak proudly
of you among the churches of God for
your perseverance and faith in the midst
of all your persecutions and afflictions
which you endure.**

2A. What was the condition of the churches in Macedonia?

Romans 15:26-27

26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

27 Yes, they were pleased *to do so*, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things.

2A. What was the condition of the churches in Macedonia?

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

² **On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.**

³ When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem;

⁴ and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.

3. What three things were said about their generosity?

2 Corinthians 8:3

³ For I testify that **according to their ability**, and **beyond their ability**, **they gave of their own accord**,

1. According to their ability
2. Beyond their ability
3. They gave of their own accord freely

4. Describe the attitude of the churches of Macedonia.

2 Corinthians 8:4-5

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.

1. **The favor of participation in the support of the saints**
2. **They first gave themselves to the Lord**
3. **They gave themselves to us**

4. Describe the attitude of the churches of Macedonia.

Giving Is motivated by God's Grace

Proportionate

Giving rises above difficult circumstances

Sacrificial

Giving Is with joy

Voluntary

Not hindered by poverty

A privilege

Generous

An act of worship

Proof of love

5. Why did Paul send Titus?

2 Corinthians 8:6

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.

Titus was to encourage and complete collecting funds from the Corinthians to help the saints in Jerusalem.

6. How does Paul address the Corinthians Christian character?

2 Corinthians 8:7-8

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.

⁸ I am not speaking *this* as a command, but as proving through **the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love** also.

6. How does Paul address the Corinthians Christian character?

Abound in everything:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Faith | 5. Love we inspired in you |
| 2. Utterance (Speech) | 6. Abound in this gracious work |
| 3. Knowledge | 7. Earnestness of others |
| 4. Earnestness | 8. Sincerity of love |

7. What do the Corinthians know about “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ”?

2 Corinthians 8:9-11

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.

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.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ:

1. He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor

2. You through His poverty might become rich

7. What do the Corinthians know about “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ”?

The Riches of Christ

Though as God Jesus owns everything in heaven and on earth

1 Corinthians 10:26

²⁶ FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS.

He possesses all power and authority

Matthew 28:18

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

The Poverty of Christ

Born of a woman

Galatians 4:4-5

⁴ But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

⁵ so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Putting on sinful flesh

Romans 8:3

³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

7. What do the Corinthians know about “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ”?

The Riches of Christ

Jesus is Son of God

Colossians 2:9

⁹ For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

Jesus is honored

John 5:23

²³ so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

The Poverty of Christ

He was tempted - yet without sin

Hebrews 4:15

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

He took on human flesh and humbled Himself even to the point of death on the cross

Philippians 2:8

⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

7. What do the Corinthians know about “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ”?

The Gift of Christ – Through His poverty poor sinners may become rich

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

8. What guidelines does Paul give to govern their giving?

2 Corinthians 8:12-15

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."

Exodus 16:18

¹⁸ When they measured it with an omer, he who had gathered much had no excess, and he who had gathered little had no lack; every man gathered as much as he should eat.

8. What guidelines does Paul give to govern their giving?

1. Readiness is present
2. According to what a person has
3. By way of equality
4. Your abundance *being a supply* for their need

8. What guidelines does Paul give to govern their giving

The spirit of the Macedonians:

1. They gave because of the grace and favor of God (v.1-5).
2. They excelled in the same spirit of faithful giving (v.6-7).
3. They proved the sincerity of their love (v.8).
4. They knew and followed the example of Christ—He gave (v.9).
5. They remembered their past record (v.10).
6. They were readily and willingly to give (v.11-12).
7. They met the needs of one another—equally (v.13-15)

9. What three men were sent to administer this collection?

2 Corinthians 8:16-19

¹⁶ But thanks be to God who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of **Titus**.

¹⁷ For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he has gone to you of his own accord.

¹⁸ We have sent along with him the **brother whose fame in the things of the gospel** has spread through all the churches;

¹⁹ and not only *this*, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and *to show* our readiness,

2 Corinthians 8:22

²² **We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things**, but now even more diligent because of *his* great confidence in you.

9. What three men were sent to administer this collection?

1. Titus
2. The brother whose fame in the things of the gospel
3. We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things

10. Why were these men chosen to deliver the collection and not Paul?

2 Corinthians 8:20-23

²⁰ taking precaution so that no one will discredit us in our administration of this generous gift;

²¹ for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

²² We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things, but now even more diligent because of *his* great confidence in you.

²³ As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brethren, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ.

10. Why were these men chosen to deliver the collection and not Paul?

1. No one will discredit us (vs. 20)
2. The generous gift is honorable in the site of the Lord and men (vs. 21)
3. Our brother tested and found diligent in many things (vs. 22)
4. Titus, Paul's partner and fellow worker (vs. 23)
5. All are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ (vs. 23)

11. What did Paul want the Corinthians to show to these men and to the other churches?

2 Corinthians 8:24

²⁴ Therefore openly before the churches, show them **the proof of your love** and of **our reason for boasting about you.**

1. **The proof of the Corinthians love**
2. **Paul's reason for boasting about the Corinthians**