

WHAT GRACE CAN DO IN YOUR GIVING! (2 Corinthians 8:1-9)

A. The EXCELLING of GRACE-GIVING: the CHURCHES of MACEDONIA. (8:1-8)

1. **The EXAMPLE of Grace-Giving. (8:1)** *“Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:”* What exactly does “Moreover” transition from and to for the audience / readers?
 - What does “brethren” underscore for us? Principle to remember: Grace-giving is only an issue for _____ who have already received the gift of salvation.
 - What does Paul want these believers to understand? Why is Paul using this example?
 - How often does the word “grace” {charis} occur in 2 Corinthians? In these chapters 8 & 9?
 - What was true of these believers regarding God’s grace? How did it show itself?
 - Principle to remember: Understanding, appreciating, and appropriating by faith the _____ of God _____ are the keys to anything successful or fruitful in your Christian life as God then does it for you, in you, and/or through you to His glory.
2. **The EXPLANATION of their GRACE-GIVING. (8:2-5)**
 - a. **Their *grace-giving* was _____ their physical and financial state. (8:2a)**
 - What was their physical and financial state? What factored into causing these challenging conditions?
 - What can we learn from this?
 - 1) While salvation is free to you {paid in full by Jesus Christ}, there is a _____ involved in faithfully serving JC by way of the world’s approval in the spiritual battle you are in.
 - 2) Enjoying God’s grace does ____ guarantee an improved financial or physical condition in your life {unlike the prosperity gospel fallacy}.
 - b. **Their *grace-giving* involved an _____ at the opportunity to give as unto the Lord to support the work of the Lord and minister to these needy saints. (8:2b)**
 - Do your circumstances in life necessarily dictate or determine your joy?
 - What might your financial / material wealth actually cloak in your life & church?
 - c. **Their *grace-attitude / gratitude* _____ into the _____ of their _____. (8:2c)** How is this paradoxical?
 - d. **Their *grace-giving* was _____ financially. (8:3a)**

- e. Their *grace-giving* was _____ {voluntarily with no percentage required}. (8:3b)
- f. Their *grace-giving* and _____ to provide their needs {Phil. 4:19} resulted in them _____, not for material things for themselves, but that the mission team would _____ for these needy Jewish saints. (8:4) What is ironic about this? What did this also communicate to the Corinthian church about this offering?
- g. Their *grace-giving* in these chapters {8 & 9} are described by the words: *HAPLOTES* - liberality, generosity (8:2, 9:11,13); *CHARIS* - gift, privilege (8:4), grace, act of kindness, gracious work (8:6-7); *KOINONIA* - fellowship, participation (8:4), liberal sharing (9:13); *DIAKONIA* - ministry, support (8:4, 9:1), administration, service (9:12); *HADROTES* - lavish giving (8:20); *EULOGIA* - generous gift, bountiful gift (9:5, 6); *LEITOURGIA* - priestly service; *ERGON AGATHON* - good work; *TA GENNEMATA TES DIKAIOSYNES HUMON* - fruits of your righteousness (9:10)
- h. Their *grace-giving* _____ the mission team's _____ {hope}. (8:5a)
- i. Their *grace-giving* followed an IMPORTANT ORDER: "they _____ to the _____ (Romans 6:11-13, 12:1) and _____ {they gave of themselves} _____ by the _____." (8:5b) What important principle do we learn from this?

3. The EXHORTATION of Grace-Giving - Dear Corinthian church - COMPLETE YOUR COLLECTION. (8:6-8)

- a. The *explanation* was for Titus to successfully _____ the collecting of this financial gift which had previously begun a year ago. (8:6) What may have factored in their procrastination or lacking behind? Why was Titus the ideal candidate for this?
- b. The *exhortation* was that the Corinthian church would now _____ in this generous act of completing their undeserved giving. (8:6-7) How does Paul affirm and encourage? Is there a place to encourage / exhort people about their grace-giving without it being a guilt trip? What is the irony of all of this?
- c. The *encouragement* to complete this grace offering involved recognizing that this as a _____ of the _____ of their _____ by comparing it with the _____ of the Macedonian believers. (8:8) How was it a "test"? Whose "love" does he have in mind?

B. The EPITOME of Grace-Giving. (8:9) "For you know the _____ {undeserved favor expressed in giving} of our _____ though He was {being} _____ {plousios - exceedingly rich - spiritually rich - John 17:5} for _____ He became _____ {ptocheuo - deeply poor - due the incarnation & crucifixion; Gal. 4:4; Rom. 1:3, 8:3; Heb. 2:7-9; Phil. 2:5-11} that {hina} through His _____ {ptocheia - deep poverty} you might become _____ {plousios - exceedingly rich - spiritually - Eph. 1:3; Col. 2:10; 2 Pet. 1:4; 2 Cor. 5:21}.

- How did Jesus Christ accomplish this for? Consider Gal. 1:4, 2:20, Eph. 5:25, 1 Tim. 2:4, Tit. 2:14.
- How does this apply to you and me?