

**I'D LIKE TO GIVE BUT ... Pt. 2**  
(2 Corinthians 8:13-24)

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

**B. The EPITOME of Grace-Giving: observe the LORD JESUS CHRIST. (8:9)**

**C. The EXCUSES & PROBLEMS for NOT Grace-Giving. (8:10-24)**

1. There is the problem & excuse of \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Cor. 16:1-4)
2. There is the problem & excuse of \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Cor. 8:1)
3. There is the problem & excuse of \_\_\_\_\_. (8:2-4)
4. There is the problem & excuse that “\_\_\_\_\_!”. (8:5)
5. There is the problem & excuse of “\_\_\_\_\_.” (8:6-7)
6. There is the problem & excuse of \_\_\_\_\_. (8:8-10)
7. There is the problem & excuse of \_\_\_\_\_. (8:11)
8. There is the problem & excuse of “\_\_\_\_\_” (8:12)
9. There is the problem & excuse of \_\_\_\_\_. (8:13-14)

“*For I do not mean that others* {individuals / churches} *should be eased* {relieved of their responsibility of giving} *and you* {plural} *burdened* {by the amount & responsibility you bear}; *14 but by an equality* {equality of responsibility, not amount, as everyone does their share of what they can do}, *that now at this time your abundance* {having a surplus; more than you need} *may supply their* {Jewish saints} *lack* {of what they need physically}, *that their abundance* {spiritually or physically} *also may supply* {if needed} *your lack-- that there may be equality* {a fair sharing of the responsibility; not necessarily the amount given}.” Observe Romans 15:25-31

- How does this relate to the social justice gospel infecting many churches today?
- What principles can we gather from Acts 4 & 5 regarding this matter?

**10. There is the problem & excuse of “\_\_\_\_\_!” (8:15) “As it is written** {Exodus 16:18}, *“He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.”* What is this a reminder of for individual believers and local churches?

**11. There is the problem & excuse of \_\_\_\_\_ (8:16) “But thanks** {charis - 9:11, 12, 15} *be to God* {the Person ultimately directing and enabling all of this to occur} *who puts the same earnest care* {earnest zeal, diligence, enthusiastic devotion} *for you into the heart of Titus.”* What do we know about Titus? What can we learn from this?

12. There is the problem & excuse of \_\_\_\_\_ . (8:17)

“*For he not only accepted* {personally welcomed this to oneself} *the exhortation* {the appeal, urging}, *but being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord* {of his own free will; willingly - 8:3}.” What can we observe here about grace - ministry besides giving? (1 Cor. 16:12)

13. There is the problem & excuse of a \_\_\_\_\_ . (8:18-24)

“*And we have sent with him* {Titus} *the brother* {unnamed, perhaps Luke?} *whose praise* {by other believers} *is in the* {preaching of the} *gospel* {of Jesus Christ & God’s grace} *throughout all the churches*, What are you known for spiritually? Do you need to have your name recognized?

*19 and not only that, but who was also chosen* {appointed by congregational feedback} *by the churches* {not by Paul} *to travel with us* {the team} *with this gift* {grace-gift}, *which is administered by us* {not just Paul} *to the glory of the Lord Himself* {as an act of worship} *and to show your ready mind* {8:11,12,19, 9:2},

- What do we observe again is the bottom line in ministry?
- What kind of believers are you looking for when it comes to the opportunities to serve in a ministry?
- What can we observe here about church decisions and functional decisions?

*20 avoiding* {taking these needed precautions to avoid} *this: that anyone should blame* {to blame of corruption, fault, discredit} *us* {this mission team} *in this lavish* {generous} *gift which is administered by us* {not just by Paul} *21 providing honorable* {a good outward appearance & not just a good inward attitude/motive} *things, not only in the sight of the Lord* {of primary importance}, *but also in the sight of men* {anthropos - all people - believers & unbelievers - Prov. 3:4}. What can we learn from this?

*22 And we have sent with them our brother* {4<sup>th</sup> person mentioned on this team but again unnamed - adult male believer} *whom we have often proved* {tested in order to approve} *diligent* {spoudazo - diligent in being faithful} *in many things, but now much more diligent* {the criteria}, *because of the great confidence which we have in you* {to complete the offering}. What do we observe again about this 4<sup>th</sup> believer/ servant ?

*23 If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker* {Rom.16:3,9,21; Phil. 2:25; Col. 4:11; Philem. 1:1,24} *concerning you*. What can we learn from this description?

*Or if our brethren* {the other unnamed members of this team} *are inquired about, they are messengers* {authorized representatives of the churches for this collection} *of the churches, the glory of Christ*. What must you observe here and understand about the word “apostle”?

*24 Therefore show to them* {these messengers}, *and before the* {other} *churches the proof of your love* {8:8} *and of our boasting on your behalf* {is legitimate or justified}.”

Some closing applications: