

2 Corinthians #18 (8:1 - 9)

I. First, Let us Look at Verses 1 - 3

- A. Some introductory things to notice about this passage
 - 1. Paul doesn't bring up giving till he has cleared other issues
 - 2. When he deals with sensitive issue uses term "Brothers" (1:8)
 - a. I Corinthians 1:10, 11 (Subject of Division) 3:1 (Carnality)
 - 3. There were false reports of how Paul handled money (2:17; 12:14)
- B. Vs. 1 - Paul calls even giving a "grace of God" – Romans 12:1 – 6
 - 1. Church given to benevolence has mark of God's favor upon it
- C. Vs. 1- Paul gives Corinthians example of churches of Macedonia
 - 1. Macedonia used to be rich area, but now was poor (Corinth was rich)
- D. Often those who are the poorest who give the most (Mark 12:41-44)
 - 1. One of Macedonian Churches (Philippi) had been generous
 - a. Philippians. 4:16- 18 – so he gives them promise in 4:19
 - 2. Often those who have most excuse- don't use it- also opposite
- E. Verse 2 – Paul expounds on Macedonian condition "Deep poverty"
 - 1. Greek word (Ptoche) means the worst poverty- beggarly
 - 2. Those who go through affliction tend to give more out of joy
 - a. I Thessalonians 1:6; Acts 5:41; Matthew 5:11, 12
 - 3. It abounded unto their generosity (Romans 12:8; 2 Cor. 9:11)
- F. Verse 3- Macedonians gave without any exhortation from Paul
 - 1. Some peoples gifts of grace operate without need of exhortation
 - a. Doesn't mean if something isn't in our nature-we don't need to do it
 - 2. Often exhorted to follow those eminent in a grace (John, Daniel, Job)
- G. V. 3 also teaches that God expects us to give according to means
 - 1. I Corinthians 16:1-3; Sometimes like Macedonians we give more

II. Then Let Us Look at Verses 4 - 6

- A. V. 4- Opposite situation- Givers begging apostles to take their gift
 - 1. Giving was looked upon as privilege not just responsibility
 - 2. Christian giving is not just to a cause – but to our own body-Gal.6:10
 - 3. Whe we receive spiritual blessings- good to share carnal blessing
 - a. Rom. 15:26, 27; I Corinthians 9:11, 12
 - 4. Give to saints of other cultures, nationalities (Gentiles to Jews)
- B. Verse 5- In order to be a good giver – we must first give ourselves
 - 1. "By will of God" – God must work it in us – Phil. 2:12, 13
- C. Verse 6- Titus was to resume this collection he started previously

III. Let us Look at Verses 7 - 9

- A. V. 7 – Paul stirs them up by complimenting them on other virtues
- B. V. 8- Paul doesn't speak by commandment- Doesn't compel them
 - 1. Giving is an area that doesn't work well by commandment
 - a. Like Paul, give example- and encourage people to emulate it
 - 2. Debated among Christians whether tithing is standard for today
 - a. Only NT references – (Matthew 23:23; Luke 18:12; Heb. 7:5-10)
 - 3. Better than legal standard is giving from people's hearts
- C. V. 9 – Ultimate example of Christian giving is our Lord Himself
 - 1. "Was rich" – shows preexistence (Phil. 2:5-8) in glorious position