

10/28/12

**SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND
HUMILITY OF A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 35**

TITLE: THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF GIVING

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 8:6-9

**INTRODUCTION: (1) THE ENGLISH WORD
EXAMPLE IS USED 14 TIMES IN THE NEW
TESTAMENT IN MY BIBLE.**

*** NOW ONE OF THE PRIMARY GREEK WORDS
USED THAT TRANSLATES EXAMPLE IS THE
WORD TOPOS (TWO-POCE).**

**** AND ONE CAN EASILY SEE THE CONNECTION
BETWEEN TOPOS AND SUCH ENGLISH WORDS
AS "TYPE", "TYPICAL" AND "TYPE-WRITING."**

***** IN ITS BASIC FORM THE WORD TOPOS MEANS
TO STRIKE OR TO MAKE A MARK BY STRIKING A
BLOW.**

****** AND FOR YOU THAT REMEMBER TYPEWRITERS, ONE WOULD WRITE ON A TYPEWRITER BY PUSHING DOWN ON A LITTLE KEY, A KEYBOARD, WHICH WOULD STRIKE A BLOW ON PAPER AND WITH INK ON THE KEY WOULD TYPE OUT AN IMPRESSION.**

(2) WELL, WITH THAT SAID, CONTINUING ON IN THE EVOLUTION OF THIS WORD, IN SECULAR GREEK THE WORD TOPOS RETAINED ITS ORIGINAL MEANING.

*** BUT THOUGH IT MEANT TO STRIKE A BLOW, THIS WAS SOON CHANGED TO INCLUDE SETTING A SEAL IN WAX AND HAMMERING OUT A MOLD, WHICH COPIES OF THAT IMPRESSION OF THE MOLD WOULD BE MADE OF.**

**** AFTER THAT, IN THE GREEK O.T., THE SEPTUAGINT, GAVE NEW MEANING TO THIS WORD. THERE IT WAS USED TO DESCRIBE THE MODEL ON WHICH THE TABERNACLE WAS BUILT.**

***** THUS THE WORD CAME TO MEAN A PATTERN, AN EXAMPLE, A MODEL, IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.**

(3) AND THIS USE OF THE WORD IS SEEN THROUGHOUT THE N.T.

*** TO ILLUSTRATE THAT, THE APOSTLE PAUL INSTRUCTED HIS SON IN THE FAITH TIMOTHY TO BE AN EXAMPLE TO OTHER BELIEVERS AS A YOUNG MAN TO THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS IN I TIMOTHY 4:12, WHERE HE SAID: (QUOTE IT).**

**** PAUL ALSO ASSUMED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING AN EXAMPLE TO CHRISTIANS, THUS HE URGED THE PHILIPPIAN CHURCH TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE IN LIVING A GODLY LIFE, FOR HE SAID IN PHILIPPIANS 3:17 (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE PHILIPPIANS 4:9.**

***** BEYOND THOSE VERSES, PAUL WOULD INSTRUCT BELIEVERS TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE, BECAUSE HE WAS FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST, QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 4:16 AND I CORINTHIANS 11:1.**

****** AND THEN PAUL IN HIS BRIEF LETTER TO TITUS, ENCOURAGED TITUS AND OTHER MEN CHRISTIAN MEN AT CRETE TO BE EXAMPLES WHERE HE SAID IN 2:7.**

(4) NOW BEYOND PAUL, PETER ADMONISHED ELDERS, PASTORS TO BE EXAMPLES IN I PETER 5:3 WHERE HE SAID: (QUOTE IT)

*** AND THE IF THERE IS ONE WORD THAT IS SYNONYMOUS WITH LEADERSHIP IN THE N.T., IT IS EXAMPLESHIP. NEW TESTAMENT LEADERS ARE AND MUST BE EXAMPLES.**

**** AND IN FOLLOWING JESUS, IN BEING DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, WE HAVE AN ULTIMATE EXAMPLE IN JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF.**

***** FOR JESUS CHRIST IS THE EXAMPLE PAR EXCELLENCE. HE IS THE PERFECT PATTERN, THE PERFECT MODEL, THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE IN SCRIPTURE.**

****** WHICH LEADS US TO OUR TEXT TODAY. FOR LAST WEEK IN OUR STUDY OF II CORINTHIANS, TO MOTIVATE AND TO ENCOURAGE THE CORINTHIANS TO RESTART, TO JUMP START THEIR OFFERINGS FOR THE POOR SAINTS AT JERUSALEM WHOM HAD BEEN DEVASTATED BY PERSECUTION AND FAMINE, PAUL SETS BEFORE THEM THE EXAMPLE OF THE MACEDONIANS, THE CHURCHES AT THESSALONICA, BEREIA AND PHILIPPI, AS MODELS, AS PATTERNS, AS EXAMPLES OF BIBLICAL GENEROUS GIVING.**

(5) FOR THOSE CHURCHES IN NORTHERN GREECE GAVE SACRIFICIALLY THROUGH THEIR CHURCHES TO THE OFFERING FOR THE POVERTY STRICKEN SAINTS AT THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM.

*** YET THEY WERE IN DEEP POVERTY AND DESTITUTE THEMSELVES AND THEY GAVE BEYOND THEIR MEANS ACTUALLY BEGGING PAUL FOR THIS PRIVILEGE OF GIVING.**

**** AND HOW THEY WERE ABLE TO DO THAT WAS THEY FIRST GAVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD. JESUS WAS THEIR FIRST LOVE AND OFFERED THEMSELVES TO THEIR LORD AS LIVING SACRIFICES.**

****** AND BECAUSE JESUS WAS THEIR MASTER, AND ALL THINGS WERE HIS INCLUDING THEIR TINY BIT OF MONEY, THEY WERE ABLE TO GIVE SACRIFICIALLY IN THEIR OFFERING TO THE POOR JERUSALEM SAINTS.**

******* WHAT EXAMPLES THEY WERE? AND PAUL BEGINS IN VV. 1-5 BY SETTING THE GREAT EXAMPLE OF THE MACEDONIANS BEFORE THE CORINTHIANS TO MOTIVATE THEM TO JUMP START THEIR OFFERING FOR THE POOR SAINTS AT JERUSALEM.**

(6) WELL, AS WE MOVE ON TODAY IN OUR STUDY OF II CORINTHIANS, PAUL SETS BEFORE THE CORINTHIANS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF GIVING.

*** A PERFECT PATTERN, A MAGNIFICENT MODEL,
THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE.**

**** AND THAT EXAMPLE IS JESUS CHRIST, WHO
GAVE UP NOT POVERTY, BUT RICHES, TO LIVE A
LIFE OF SACRIFICE IN HIS INCARNATION AND
FIRST ADVENT, TO COME FOR THE PURPOSE OF
SAVING HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS AND
MAKING THEM RICH SPIRITUALLY.**

***** AND AS WE LOOK AT THE ULTIMATE
EXAMPLE OF GIVING, OUR TITLE TODAY THAT
EXAMPLE EVEN TRUMPS THE MACEDONIAN'S
EXAMPLE OF GIVING, WE'LL LOOK AT 3 POINTS.**

****** NO. 1 THE GRACIOUS WORK OF THIS
OFFERING, VV. 6&7; NO. 2 THE GENUINENESS OF
LOVE, V. 8; AND NO. 3 THE GRACE OF CHRIST, V.
9 WHERE WE'LL SPEND THE MAJORITY OF OUR
TIME TODAY.**

*** AND WITH THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST
TO FOLLOW, LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE WHERE**

**WE'LL START TO SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY,
THE GRACIOUS WORK.**

I. THE GRACIOUS WORK, (READ V. 6)

**A. NOW IN V. 6, PAUL URGES, PAUL
ENCOURAGES TITUS TO COMPLETE THE
GRACIOUS WORK HE HAD BEGUN AT CORINTH.**

*** AND THE GRACIOUS WORK IS A REFERENCE
TO THE OFFERING, OF GIVING TO THE POOR
SAINTS OF JERUSALEM.**

**** GIVING IS A GRACIOUS WORK, IT IS AN ACTION
OF GRACE, AN ACT OF GRACE. GIVING IS THE
ACTIVITY INSPIRED BY GRACE THAT LEADS TO
GRACE GIVING.**

***** IT IS TO SAY THAT GOD'S WORK OF GRACE IN
OUR LIVES MOTIVATES US TO GIVE, GRACIOUS
GIVING IS A FRUIT OF GOD'S GRACIOUS WORK
IN BELIEVERS, GRACE GIVING FOLLOWS GOD'S
GRACIOUS WORK IN OUR LIVES.**

****** AND PAUL URGES TITUS TO COMPLETE THIS
WORK WHICH HE HAD BEGUN AT AN EARLIER
VISIT TO THE CORINTHIANS.**

1. AND IN ESSENCE PAUL IS URGING TITUS TO GO BACK TO CORINTH AS HE HAS NOW MET UP WITH PAUL IN MACEDONIA.

*** AND IF YOU REMEMBER, PAUL HAD DISPATCHED TITUS TO DELIVER HIS SEVERE OR TEARFUL LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS AND THE CORINTHIANS RESPONDED BY REPENTING OF THEIR SIN. AND UPON RETURN, TITUS IS URGED BY PAUL TO GO BACK TO CORINTH AND MAKE SURE THE CORINTHIANS NOW RESTORED TO THE LORD AND PAUL WOULD FINISH UP WHAT THEY HAD STARTED EARLIER IN COLLECTING THE OFFERING.**

**** SO THIS GRACIOUS WORK OF GIVING IS TO BE KICK STARTED BY TITUS REMINDING THE CORINTHIANS ABOUT THEIR EARLIER COMMITMENT AND GIVING TO RE-START THEIR GIVING IN THE GRACIOUS WORK AS WELL.**

***** AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT TO FOLLOW THRU CONTINUES IN V. 7. LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE.**

B. READ V. 7. NOW IN V. 7 PAUL ENCOURAGES THE CORINTHIANS IN ANOTHER WAY SO THAT

THEY COMPLETE AND FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THIS GRACIOUS WORK OF GIVING.

*** IN FACT, PAUL BEGINS WITH AN ENCOURAGING COMPLIMENT TO THE CORINTHIANS, FAR BEYOND ALL THE NEGATIVE THINGS THE CORINTHIANS WERE STRUGGLING WITH, THERE WERE GOOD SPIRITUAL VIRTUES IN THEIR LIVES ALREADY.**

**** VIRTUES LIKE FAITH, A STRONG TRUST AND RELIANCE ON THE LORD.**

***** VIRTUES LIKE UTTERANCE, MOST LIKELY MAKING REFERENCE TO COMMUNICATING THE FAITH, COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL, EXPRESSING THEIR FAITH VERBALLY.**

****** VIRTUES LIKE KNOWLEDGE, THE ABILITY TO APPLY TRUTH TO THE ISSUES OF LIFE, KNOWING THE TRUTH AND APPLYING IT.**

1. THEN THE VIRTUE OF EARNESTNESS LIT. MEANS, SPIRITUAL PASSION, EAGERNESS, ENERGY.

*** AND THEN LOVE, AGAPE LOVE IS THE NOBLE LOVE OF GOD THAT SACRIFICES, WHICH THEY SAW IN PAUL, FOR PAUL HAD INSPIRED IN THE CORINTHIANS LOVE, THROUGH HIS EXAMPLE AND TEACHING.**

**** NOW BECAUSE OF THESE SPIRITUAL VIRTUES WHICH THE CORINTHIANS POSSESSED, PAUL ENCOURAGED THE CORINTHIANS TO SEE TO IT THAT THEY ABOUND IN THE GRACIOUS VIRTUE OF GIVING.**

***** I MEAN GOD'S GRACE PRODUCED THOSE VIRTUES IN THE CORINTHIANS AND PAUL WANTED IT TO FLOW OUT THROUGH THEIR GIVING ALSO.**

****** FOR GIVING DOES NOT TAKE PLACE IN A VACUUM, ISOLATED FROM OTHER CHRISTIAN VIRTUES. IT FLOWS THROUGH GOD'S GRACE THAT WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR LOVE BY ACTIONS.**

2. AND ACTIONS SHOW OUR LOVE, ACTIONS GIVE EVIDENCE OF OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST. LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE GENUINENESS OF LOVE.

II. THE GENUINENESS OF LOVE, (READ V. 8)

A. NOW PAUL WANTED THE CORINTHIANS TO BE CLEAR THAT HIS ENCOURAGEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS LOVE OFFERING, THE GRACE GIVING FOR THE CORINTHIANS WAS NOT A COMMAND.

* PAUL WAS NOT TELLING THEM THEY HAD TO DO THIS OR HOW MUCH THEY SHOULD GIVE BY A COMMAND FROM PAUL.

** BELOVED, THE OFFERING FOR THE POOR SAINTS AT JERUSALEM WAS A VOLUNTARY FREEWILL OFFERING, NOT A COMMAND.

**** HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH PAUL IS MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THIS OFFERING IS NOT A COMMAND, PAUL CHALLENGED THE

CORINTHIANS TO PROVE THROUGH THE EARNESTNESS OF OTHERS THE SINCERITY OF THEIR LOVE ALSO.

****** NOW THE OTHERS TO WHOM PAUL REFERRED WERE THE MACEDONIANS; HENCE PAUL URGED THE CORINTHIANS TO FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE AND PROVE THEIR SINCERITY BY THEIR GIVING.**

1. IN OTHER WORDS, THIS OFFERING WAS A TEST OF THEIR LOVE FOR CHRIST.

*** FOR TRUE LOVE NEVER LEAVES US CONTENT TO JUST TALK, IT HAS TO BE EXPRESSED IN ACTS OF CONCERN.**

**** THE GENUINENESS OF OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST IS ALWAYS SHOWN BY ACTIONS. FOR THE TRUE TEST OF LOVE IS NOT FEELINGS, BUT ACTIONS.**

***** BUT FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE AMERICAN BRAND OF CHRISTIANITY WHICH HAS DOWNSIZED TRUE LOVE FOR GOD, FEELINGS**

ARE SUPREME, AND MANY ARE CONVINCED THAT THEY ARE CHRISTIANS BY THEIR FEELINGS FOR CHRIST, BUT THERE ARE NO ACTIONS THAT FOLLOW.

****** VERY LITTLE GIVING OR NO GIVING. COMING TO CHURCH IS TOO HARD OR THEY CAN'T GET UP THAT EARLY. NO SERVICE, NO SACRIFICE, WHICH SHOWS THERE IS NO LOVE. BUT THEY HAVE WARM VIBES ABOUT JESUS AND ARE DECEIVED IN THINKING THEY LOVE HIM.**

2. BELOVED, AGAIN, THE TRUE TEST OF LOVE IS NOT FEELINGS BUT ACTIONS, QUOTE I JOHN 3:18 AND I JOHN 4:20&21.

*** AND THE QUESTION CAN BE ASKED TODAY, HOW SINCERE IS YOUR LOVE FOR JESUS? WELL YOUR GIVING IS AN EXACT SPIRITUAL THERMOMETER.**

**** THE GENUINENESS OF OUR LOVE FOR JESUS AND OTHERS THROUGH GIVING IS ONE OF**

SEVERAL INDICATORS OF THE SINCERITY OF OUR LOVE FOR JESUS.

***** AND THE MACEDONIANS WERE GREAT EXAMPLES OF THIS, BUT THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF GIVING AND LOVE IS THE LORD JESUS. SO LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL TAKE SOME TIME AND LOOK AT THE GRACE OF CHRIST.**

III. THE GRACE OF CHRIST, (READ V. 9)

A. NOW THE FIRST WORD IN V. 9, THE CONJUNCTION “FOR”, GAR IN THE GREEK, LINKS V. 9 TO V. 8.

*** WHICH MEANS, (AS WE'VE JUST LOOKED AT) I DON'T NEED TO GIVE YOU (THE CORINTHIANS) A COMMAND CONCERNING THIS OFFERING, FOR YOUR GIVING WILL SHOW OR DISPLAY THE SINCERITY OF YOUR LOVE. IF YOU REALLY**

LOVE CHRIST YOU WILL GIVE, THAT WILL BE THE PROOF.

**** IN OTHER WORDS, BIBLICAL GIVING COMES FROM A WILLING LOVING GRACIOUS HEART, AND GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.**

***** AND THE GREATEST GIFT OF GRACE, WHICH IS THE GREATEST MOTIVATION FOR CHEERFUL GIVING, CAME THROUGH THEIR SAVIOR, THE LORD JESUS.**

****** FOR-THE CONNECTOR, FOR YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THE GRACE OF CHRIST, FOR THEY HAD EXPERIENCED GOD'S GRACE IN SALVATION AND COULD TESTIFY OF THAT KNOWLEDGE AS BELIEVERS.**

1. AND INDEED, THEY WERE ABLE TO TALK FROM EXPERIENCE AND TESTIFY TO THAT SAVING KNOWLEDGE.

*** AND THE CORINTHIANS MAY HAVE BEEN UNAWARE OF THE MACEDONIAN'S GIVING BEFORE THE WRITING OF THESE VERSES, BUT**

THEY KNEW, THEY HAD KNOWLEDGE THAT CHRIST CAME DOWN FROM GLORY AND GAVE HIS LIFE AS A SACRIFICE FOR SINNERS.

** AND THAT UNSPEAKABLE, INDESCRIBABLE GIFT, TALKED ABOUT IN II CORINTHIANS 9:15, ECLIPSES ALL OTHERS INCLUDING THE MACEDONIAN'S SACRIFICE AS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE FOR ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS TO FOLLOW.

*** AND THE MOTIVE OR REASON BEHIND THE COMING OF CHRIST AND HIS SACRIFICE IS GIVEN IN THE NEXT WORD IN V. 9 – GRACE – FOR YOU KNOW THE GRACE.

**** AND PAUL USES THIS WORD THAT IS FULL OR PREGNANT WITH MEANING, THE WORD GRACE, WHICH IN THIS CONTEXT REFERS TO CHRIST'S GIVING BECAUSE HIS GIVING OF HIMSELF WAS ROOTED IN GRACE, MEANING: UNMERITED, DIVINE FAVOR, SPONTANEOUS KINDNESS TO UNDESERVING SINNERS

STEMMING FROM PURE AND UNDESERVING AND UNINFLUENCED SOVEREIGN LOVE.

2. GRACE HERE IS AN ACT OF GRATUITOUS LOVE, IT IS LOVING KINDNESS, IT IS MERCY, IT IS AN UNDESERVED GIFT IT IS SOVEREIGN GRACE, FOR THERE IS NOTHING FORESEEN IN THE ONE IT IS GIVEN TO, TO MERIT IT.

*** AND THE ACTION OF THE SAVIOR THAT FOLLOWS IN THE REST OF II CORINTHIANS 8:9 DEFINES GRACE GIVING AT ITS PUREST AND MOST GRACIOUS LEVEL.**

**** AND BEFORE I ATTEMPT TO UNPACK THAT, NOTICE THAT IT IS THE GRACE “OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.”**

***** AND HERE WE HAVE THE FULL NAME OF THE INCARNATE GOD, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

****** AND THESE 3 WORDS, THIS RICH TITLE ENCOMPASSES THE FULLNESS OF THE 2'D**

PERSON OF THE TRINITY, THE FULLNESS OF HIS PERSON AND WORK.

3. AND FIRST UP THE NAME LORD MEANING MASTER, GOD, THE OWNER, THE CHIEF ONE, THE SOVEREIGN, THE RULER, THE ONE WHO HAS CONTROL.

*** AND LORD IS THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME THAT WAS GIVEN THE SON BY THE FATHER BECAUSE HE WOULD ACCOMPLISH THE WORK OF REDEMPTION, QUOTE PHILIPPIANS 2:8-11.**

**** NOW AFTER THE NAME LORD HERE IN II CORINTHIANS 8:9 WE HAVE THE NAME JESUS WHICH EXPRESSES WHY HE CAME, HE CAME AS SAVIOR, QUOTE MATTHEW 1:21 AND LUKE 19:10.**

***** AND THEN LAST OF ALL IN THE SON'S NAME WE HAVE HERE IN V. 9 THE NAME CHRIST.**

****** AND THIS NAME COMMUNICATES THE SON AS THE MESSIAH, THE ANOINTED ONE OF GOD, THE KING, THE SON OF GOD.**

4. AND PUT TOGETHER – “THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”, WE HAVE THE FULL NAME OF THE INCARNATE GOD WHO WOULD BE BORN OF A VIRGIN IN BETHLEHEM ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

*** AND THAT EVENT COMMUNICATES THE GRACE OF CHRIST.**

A. AND AS WE MOVE ON IN V. 9, THE QUESTION MUST BE ASKED HOW WAS AND IS CHRIST RICH?

*** WELL HE IS RICH IN HIS POSSESSIONS, HIS PERSON AND IN HIS POWER.**

**** LET ME EXPLAIN. CHRIST IS RICH IN HIS POSSESSIONS FOR HE IS THE CREATOR IN JOHN 1:3, SO HE OWNS EVERYTHING, FOR I CORINTHIANS 10:26 SAYS, “FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD’S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS.” SO JESUS IS RICH IN HIS POSSESSIONS.**

***** NO. 2 JESUS CHRIST IS RICH IN HIS POWER, FOR HE IS GOD HIMSELF AND AS MATTHEW 28:18 SAYS: (QUOTE IT). HE IS OMNIPOTENT.**

****** SO CHRIST IS RICH IN HIS POSSESSIONS AND IN HIS POWER.**

1. BUT HERE PRIMARILY IN II CORINTHIANS 8:9, HE IS RICH IN HIS PERSON, FOR THE RICHES IN VIEW HERE ARE THOSE OF CHRIST'S ETERNAL GLORY.

*** AND BELOVED THE RICHES OF CHRIST HERE POINT NOT TO HIS EARTHLY EXISTENCE, BUT TO HIS ETERNAL STATE, HIS PRE-EXISTENT STATE, WHEN HE FOR ALL ETERNITY BEFORE HIS COMING TO EARTH ENJOYED THE GLORY OF HEAVEN WITH HIS FATHER.**

**** LET ME EXPLAIN ILLUSTRATING FROM SCRIPTURE.**

***** JESUS SAID IN HIS HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER IN JOHN 17:4&5 THIS: (QUOTE THEM)**

****** NOW JESUS EXISTED BEFORE THE WORLD WAS.**

2. BUT HE NOT ONLY EXISTED BEFORE THE WORLD WAS, BUT FROM ALL ETERNITY, FOR IN THE PROPHECY PREDICTING CHRIST'S BIRTHPLACE OF BETHLEHEM IT SAYS THIS IN MICAH 5:2: (QUOTE IT).

*** AND THEN ISAIAH 9:6 DESCRIBES JESUS AS THE ETERNAL OR EVERLASTING FATHER, (QUOTE IT).**

**** BEYOND THAT, JOHN WOULD SAY OF JESUS IN JOHN 1:1&2: QUOTE THEM. ALSO QUOTE JOHN 1:14 AND JOHN 8:58.**

***** NOW HERE IN JOHN 8:58, JESUS HIMSELF DECLARED HIS ETERNAL EXISTENCE TO THE UNBELIEVING JEWS.**

****** AND THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT HE WAS CLAIMING TO BE GOD, FOR ONLY GOD IS ETERNAL, SO THEIR RESPONSE IN JOHN 8:59,**

THEY PICKED UP STONES TO THROW AT HIM. THEY WANTED TO KILL HIM FOR BLASPHEMY. THEY KNEW HE WAS CLAIMING TO BE GOD AS THE ETERNAL ONE.

3. NOW HERE'S THE TRUTH THAT YOU NEED TO PROCESS AND PUT IN YOUR MEMORY SAVE FILE, THE PHRASE "THOUGH HE WAS RICH" MAKES REFERENCE TO CHRIST'S ETERNAL STATE BEFORE HIS FIRST COMING, WHICH IS TALKED ABOUT IN THE NEXT PHRASE, "YET FOR YOUR SAKE HE BECAME POOR" – HIS INCARNATION, HIS FIRST ADVENT.

*** AND THOUGH HE WAS RICH CLEARLY POINTS TO CHRIST'S ETERNAL STATE. AND THE ETERNITY OF JESUS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TRUTHS IN ALL OF CHRISTOLOGY.**

**** FOR IF CHRIST IS NOT ETERNAL, HE MUST HAVE HAD A BEGINNING AND WOULD THEREBY BE A CREATED BEING LIKE THE CULTS TEACH.**

***** BUT SINCE SCRIPTURE COMMUNICATES CHRIST'S ETERNITY CLEARLY, IT IS ANOTHER PROOF OF HIS DEITY THAT HE IS GOD, THE 2'D PERSON OF THE TRINITY.**

****** FOR BEING ETERNAL IS AN ATTRIBUTE ONLY GOD POSSESSES. AND ONLY GOD COULD DIE AND PAY FOR THE REDEMPTION PRICE FOR SINNERS, ONLY GOD CAN SAVE PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.**

4. SO JESUS DIDN'T COME INTO BEING AT BETHLEHEM, HE WAS IN THE BEGINNING OF BEGINNINGS BEFORE BEGINNINGS EVER BEGAN OR TO SAY IT IN AN EASIER WAY, JESUS IS ETERNAL, JESUS IS GOD, AND HE LEFT HIS GLORY TO COME TO EARTH TO SAVE PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.

A. BUT NOTICE IN THE NEXT PHRASE IN V. 9: "YET FOR YOUR SAKE", AND THIS MAKES REFERENCE TO THE CORINTHIAN BELIEVERS AT THE CHURCH OF CORINTH THAT THE APOSTLE PAUL IS INSPIRED TO WRITE TO AND WOULD

INCLUDE ALL FUTURE BELIEVERS THAT CHRIST WILL SAVE, HIS ELECT, HIS PEOPLE THAT HE CAME TO SAVE, FOR YOUR SAKE.

*** AND THEN THE PHRASE, “HE BECAME POOR” IS A CLEAR GEM OF TRUTH THAT COMMUNICATES CHRIST’S CONDESCENSION, HIS COMING TO EARTH, THE INCARNATION, THE FIRST ADVENT.**

**** AND BELOVED, IN THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST, THE ETERNAL GOD BECAME POOR BY TAKING ON HUMAN FLESH AND HUMBLING HIMSELF EVEN TO THE POINT OF DEATH, QUOTE PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8.**

***** NOW CHRIST BECAME POOR BY LEAVING THE GLORY OF HIS ETERNAL STATE TO COME TO EARTH, QUOTE GALATIANS 4:4&5, HEBREWS 2:9A.**

****** AND THEN ROMANS 8:3 SAYS: “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.”

******* AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS, JESUS BECAME POOR, IT WAS CONDESCENSION. PAUL CONTRASTS THE RICHES OF CHRIST BEFORE JESUS’ BIRTH WITH THE POVERTY OF HUMAN EXISTENCE DURING HIS EARTHLY LIFE.**

1. SIMON KISTERMAKER SAYS AT THIS POINT IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS AND I QUOTE: “IT IS THE DISSIMILARITY OF LEAVING THE HOLINESS AND GLORY OF HEAVEN TO ENTER THE PROFANITY AND POVERTY OF EARTH. IT IS GOD’S INDESCRIBABLE GIFT (II CORINTHIANS 9:15) TO SEND HIS SON TO BE BORN, SUFFER AND DIE FOR SINNERS.” (END QUOTE)

*** AND BELOVED, THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST AND HIS CONDESCENSION TO EARTH IS THE GREATEST GIFT, AND THROUGH IT BELIEVER, WE HAVE BECOME RICH SPIRITUALLY.**

**** NOW HOW MANY OF YOU WANT TO BE RICH TODAY, DON'T RAISE YOUR HAND?**

***** NOW THAT TRULY IS A DESIRE OF MANY PEOPLE. BUT THEY ARE DESIRING THE WRONG KIND OF RICHES, RICHES THAT DON'T LAST, RICHES THAT ARE TEMPORARY, RICHES THAT DON'T FILL OUR REAL NEED, MAYBE OUR FELT NEED, BUT NOT OUR REAL NEED, QUOTE PROVERBS 23:4&5; I TIMOTHY 6:6-8,10,11; LUKE 12:15; PROVERBS 13:7.**

****** NOW THE RICHES THAT PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT HERE IN II CORINTHIANS 8:9 HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH TEMPORAL MONETARY RICHES, FOR THE MACEDONIANS THAT PAUL MAKES REFERENCE TO IN THIS TEXT WERE LIVING IN POVERTY, AND SO WERE THE POOR SAINTS IN JERUSALEM, BUT THEY WERE ALL RICH.**

******* FOR THE GIFT OF CHRIST'S GRACE IN SALVATION MAKES A SPIRITUALLY POOR MAN**

OR WOMAN A SPIRITUALLY RICH MAN OR WOMAN.

******* JOHN MACARTHUR IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS SAYS AT THIS POINT AND I QUOTE: “THE PURPOSE OF CHRIST’S CONDESCENSION WAS THAT THROUGH HIS POVERTY POOR SINNERS MIGHT BECOME RICH. HE DID NOT MAKE THEM MATERIALLY RICH BUT GAVE THEM ALL THE BLESSINGS OF SALVATION: FORGIVENESS, JOY, PEACE, ETERNAL LIFE, LIGHT AND GLORY. PETER DESCRIBED THOSE RICHES AS “AN INHERITANCE WHICH IS IMPERISHABLE AND UNDEFILED AND WILL NOT FADE AWAY RESERVED IN HEAVEN FOR BELIEVERS,” I PETER 1:4” (END QUOTE)**

2. NOW I PETER 1:4 SAYS: (QUOTE IT)

*** AND BELOVED, THROUGH CHRIST’S GIFT TO US, WE GO FROM BEING BANKRUPT TO RICH IN SPIRITUAL ETERNAL RICHES, THE CONTEXT OF II CORINTHIANS 8:9.**

**** AND IT IS SAD TO ME THAT HEALTH AND WEALTH AND PROSPERITY PREACHERS AND WORD OF FAITH PREACHERS TAKE II CORINTHIANS 8:9 AND MISREPRESENT IT AND TEACH THAT GOD WANTS EVERY BELIEVER TO BE RICH, MATERIALLY.**

***** IT IS ABSURD AND IS TEMPORARILY MINDED. THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME AND RICHES LEAD A LOT OF PEOPLE ASTRAY, AND IF GOD MAKES YOU RICH, BLESS GOD AND USE YOUR RICHES FOR THE GOSPEL, YOU HAVE A STEWARDSHIP. BUT ONE WARNING AFTER ANOTHER IS DON'T PURSUE RICHES AND BE CONTENT.**

****** BELOVED, EVERY TRUE FOLLOWER OF CHRIST IS RICH TODAY IN ETERNAL BLESSING.**

2. AND THIS KIND OF RICHES AND GRACE IS SOMETHING THAT EVERY BELIEVERS CAN GIVE THANKS FOR AND SHOULD BE MOTIVATED TO GIVE.

IN WRAP UP: (1) NO ARGUMENT COULD BE MORE FORCEFUL THAN THE TRUTHS OF II CORINTHIANS 8:9 TO GIVE OF OURSELVES FIRST TO THE LORD LIKE THE MACEDONIANS.

****** AND THAT'S WHERE TRUE GIVING AS CHRISTIANS STARTS, APPLYING II CORINTHIANS 8:5 WHICH SAYS AGAIN: (QUOTE IT)**

(2) BUT ALSO REFLECTING ON CHRIST'S GREAT CONDESCENSION ON OUR BEHALF, THE GRADE DOWN, DOWN FROM HIS GLORY, IS A MOTIVATION TO GIVE OURSELVES FIRST TO THE LORD.

*** AND TRULY ACTS 20:35 COMES INTO PLAY HERE, IT SAYS: "IN EVERYTHING I SHOWED YOU THAT BY WORKING HARD IN THIS MANNER YOU MUST HELP THE WEAK AND REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE LORD JESUS, THAT HE HIMSELF SAID, 'IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.'"**

**** AND IN APPLICATION TODAY, I'M NOT TELLING YOU TO GIVE TILL IT HURTS, FOR GIVING SHOULDN'T HURT FOR A BELIEVER THAT UNDERSTANDS THE COST OF THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT OF CHRIST. IT SHOULD BE A JOY AS WE THINK OF THE GRACE OF CHRIST AS A MOTIVATION AND ULTIMATE EXAMPLE.**

***** A MOTIVATION TO GIVE OF YOUR TIME TO THE LORD, GIVE OF YOUR TALENTS, GIVE OF YOUR TREASURE, MAY HE BE PREEMINENT IN ALL THOSE AREAS, LORD OF ALL.**

****** GOD GAVE HIS SON, THE GODMAN CAME TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS. MAY WE GIVE MORE OF OURSELVES THAN WE EVER HAVE.**

- MAY OUR RESPONSE BE: OH HOW I LOVE HIM! HOW I ADORE HIM! MY BREATH, MY SUNSHINE, MY ALL IN ALL! THE GREAT CREATOR BECAME MY SAVIOR, AND ALL GOD'S FULLNESS DWELLETH IN HIM.

3. BUT IF YOU ARE HERE WITHOUT CHRIST TODAY, HE IS NOT YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR. YOUR NEED IS NOT TO GIVE, BUT RECEIVE, QUOTE JOHN 1:11-13.

*** YOUR NEED IS TO REPENT AND TURN IN FAITH TO CHRIST AND FOLLOW HIM.**

**** AND THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL IS A SAVIOR HAS COME TO SAVE SINNERS, TO DO FOR US WHAT WE CANNOT DO FOR OURSELVES.**

***** TURN TO THE ONLY SAVIOR TODAY, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! (LET'S PRAY)**