

1 **II Corinthians 8:1-15**

2 **II Corinthians 8:1-7**

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God. So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.

3 **II Corinthians 8:8-13**

I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as *there was* a readiness to desire it, so *there also may be* a completion out of what you have. For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have. For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened;

4 **II Corinthians 8:14-15**

but by an equality, *that* now at this time your abundance *may supply* their lack, that their abundance also may *supply* your lack—that there may be equality. As it is written, “He who *gathered* much had nothing left over, and he who *gathered* little had no lack.”

5 **Poverty Abounding in Riches of Generosity**

1 - Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:

2 - that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.

- “Great trial” -- *testing, proof*
- “Of affliction” -- *Being persecuted, harassed, and plundered*
- “Liberality” -- *generosity*

6 **Poverty Abounding in Riches of Generosity**

3 - For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing,

4 - imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

- *The Macedonian believers earnestly requested of Paul, as a favor, that they might have a*

share in ministering to the poor saints.

7 **Poverty Abounding in Riches of Generosity**

5 - And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God.

- *The Macedonian believers exceeded Paul's expectations.*
- "They first gave themselves to the Lord" -- The right kind of giving to God begins with the believer giving himself to God.

8 **Poverty Abounding in Riches of Generosity**

6 - So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well.

7 - But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.

8 - I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.

- *Generous giving is a manifestation of God's work of grace in the heart of the believer.*

9 **Christ Our Pattern**

9 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

- *In coming to earth from heaven*
- *In living a life of service*
- *In dying on the cross, taking on Himself all the sins of mankind*

10 **Christ Our Pattern**

10 - And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago;

11 - but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as *there was* a readiness to desire it, so *there also may be* a completion out of what *you* have.

- "Out of what *you* have" -- *According to your ability*

11 **Christ Our Pattern**

12 - For if there is first a willing mind, *it is* accepted according to what one has, *and* not according to what he does not have.

13 - For *I do* not mean that others should be eased and you burdened;

- *God sees and is pleased with the believer's genuine desire to give.*

- *The object of Christian benevolence is not that the givers should be impoverished while the receivers live in abundance.*

12 **Christ Our Pattern**

14 - but by an equality, *that* now at this time your abundance *may supply* their lack, that their abundance also may *supply* your lack—that there may be equality.

15 - As it is written, "He who *gathered* much had nothing left over, and he who *gathered* little had no lack."

- *The material blessings God gives us may not necessarily all be intended for us to lavish on ourselves but rather for us to bless others.*