

I'D LIKE TO GIVE BUT ...
(2 Corinthians 8:6-24)

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

1. The EXAMPLE of Grace-Giving. (8:1)

2. The EXPLANATION of their GRACE-GIVING. (8:2-5)

3. The EXHORTATION of Grace-Giving - Dear Corinthian church - YOU NEED TO 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 into 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.

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) "And in this I give advice {advice, counsel, judgment}: It is to your advantage {advantage, profit, benefit, in your best interest} not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago;"

7. There is the problem & excuse of _____. (8:11) “*but now you also must complete* {aorist tense, active voice, imperative mood of epiteleo - to completely finish} *the doing of it; that as there was a readiness* {eager and willing mind} *to desire it, so there also may be a completion* {to completely finish} *out of what you have* {in keeping with your ability or means}.”
8. There is the problem & excuse of “_____” (8:12) “*For if* {1st} *there is first a willing mind* {eager/willing mind - 8:11,12,19, 9:2}, *it* {the gift} *is accepted* {acceptable} *according to* {kata - in keeping with} *what one has* {8:3;1 Cor. 16:2}, *and not according to what he does not have.*”
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}, *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}.” See Rom. 15:25-31.
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.”*”
11. There is the problem & excuse of _____. (8:16) “*But thanks* {charis} *be to God* {the Person directing and enabling all of this to transpire} *who puts the same earnest care* {earnest zeal, diligence, enthusiastic devotion} *for you into the heart of Titus.*” {2 Cor. 2:13, 7:6, 7:13, 14, 8:6, 16, 23, 12:18 (2x)}
12. There is the problem & excuse of _____. (8:17) “*For he not only accepted* {to personally welcome 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}.”
13. There is the problem & excuse of a _____. (8:18-24) “*And we have sent with him* {Titus} *the brother* {unnamed, but Luke?} *whose praise* {is praised & well known for} *is in the* {preaching of the} *gospel* {of Jesus Christ and God’s grace} *throughout all the churches, 19 and not only that, but who was also chosen* {appointed by congregational feedback} *by the churches* {not 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* {to the Lord as an act of worship} *and to show your ready mind* {eager & willing mind - 8:11,12,19, 9:2}, *20 avoiding* {taking these needed precautions to avoid} *this: that anyone should blame* {to blame of corruption, find fault, discredit} *us* {this mission team} *in this lavish* {generous} *gift which is administered by us* {not just Paul} *21 providing honorable* {a good outward appearance and not just a good inward attitude & motive} *things, not only in the sight of the Lord* {of first importance}, *but also in the sight of men* {also of importance - anthropos - all people - those whom he was seeking to bring to Christ or mature in Christ - Prov. 3:4}. *22 And we have sent with them our brother* {this is the 4th person mentioned on this team but again unnamed - adult male believer} *whom we have often proved* {dokimazo - to put to the test in order to approve} *diligent* {spoudazo - diligent in being faithful} *in many things, but now much more diligent* {again the criteria}, *because of the great confidence which we have in you* {to complete the offering by the grace of God}. *23 If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker* {Romans 16:3,9,21; Phil. 2:25; Col. 4:11; Philemon 1:1,24} *concerning you. Or if our brethren* {the other unnamed members of this team} *are inquired about, they are messengers* {officially authorized representatives of the churches to help with this collection} *of the churches, the glory of Christ. 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* {that it is legitimate or justified}.”