

**WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN BELIEVERS  
PART 3-GRACE MULTIPLIED-PT 2  
2 PETER 1:2; 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9**

**INTRODUCTION**

Last week, we saw in *1 PETER 5:10* that Our **GOD** is the **GOD OF ALL GRACE!** And our main text for last week and for this portion of our series on **WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN BELIEVERS** is *2 PETER 1:2*.

**GRACE is MULTIPLIED to us THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST!**

When we came to know the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** as our **SAVIOUR** (thereby being **RECONCILED WITH GOD**), that was our **FIRST KNOWLEDGE** or **EXPERIENCE** of the **PRIMARY GRACE** that **GOD** has **GIVEN** us! (i.e. **HIS SAVING GRACE!**)

After one becomes a **BELIEVER**, a whole lot of **GRACES** come into play! Our life becomes **FULL** of **GOD'S GRACE!** The more we come to know **GOD both through HIS WORD** and through **HIS HELP** in our **LIFE EXPERIENCES**, the more we become aware of **GOD'S GRACES!** The fact is that we move from one **GRACE** to another as we journey through this life. **GRACE** is added to **GRACE** in our lives as **BELIEVERS!**

i.e. The **BELIEVER'S** life is the constant reception of one evidence of **GOD'S GRACE** being piled on top of another evidence of **HIS GRACE!**

Now, we began last week looking at some of the different types of **GRACE** that are **MULTIPLIED** in our lives as **BELIEVERS!** We saw **GOD'S... SAFEGUARDING GRACE...whether you're saved or lost!**  
**SAVING GRACE...if you don't have it, you can leave here with it!**  
**SECURING GRACE...if you have God's saving grace, you have it!**  
**SANCTIFYING GRACE...God has set apart believers for HIS purposes!**  
**SERVING GRACE...God will give us the grace to do whatever He wants!**

So, last week we saw those five different evidences of **GOD'S GRACE!** Understand that, **LORD** willing, we are going to see fifteen in all! And there are possibly even more that we won't be looking at!

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But this morning, let's see and understand just one more **GRACE** that comes our way as **BELIEVERS!** **And this is a tough one that many folks don't want to think about and that is this:**  
**GOD MULTIPLIES HIS SACRIFICING GRACE** in our lives!

Before we read the text for today, let's think about what it means to **SACRIFICE!** The term often suggests "*The **SURRENDERING, GIVING SOMETHING UP, or SUFFERING LOSS on the behalf of another.***" (*It is what comes to mind when we think about **CHRIST SACRIFICING HIMSELF on the CROSS OF CALVARY on our behalf!***)

And understand that even though the example of **SACRIFICING GRACE** that we will see this morning in our text deals with **SACRIFICING** in the area of the **GIVING OF OUR MONEY**, that is not all the only area of **SACRIFICING** that **GOD GIVES US GRACE** in!

**Let's turn to 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9 (READ) Note Vs 7 especially!** While making his third missionary journey, **PAUL** was collecting money for the impoverished believers in **JERUSALEM.** (*These Churches of Macedonia were located in Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea.*)

In the first verse here, Paul calls this "*the grace of God bestowed on the Churches of Macedonia*" and then he talks about their **GREAT SACRIFICIAL GIVING!**

Understand that **GOD** had given a **SPECIAL GRACE** to these **CHURCHES** which allowed them to **TRUST HIM** and **GIVE BEYOND THEMSELVES AND THEIR ABILITY!**  
**I want us to see the characteristics of the kind of SACRIFICIAL GIVING that we see here:**

**I. Their SACRIFICIAL GIVING Was Made Because Of The GRACE that GOD BESTOWED On These CHURCHES! (Vs. 1)**

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**GRACE** for **SACRIFICIAL GIVING** comes from **GRACE** we have received from the **LORD!**

Remember last week I said **GOD** gives us “**GRACE FOR GRACE.**”  
i.e. **GRACE on top of GRACE! This is one!**

- A. These Churches (i.e. the Members) Were Already Recipients Of GOD’S SAVING Grace! (Vs 9)**
- B. Their GRACE IN GIVING Was Tied To Their Already Having RECEIVED GRACE from the LORD!  
The same should be true in our GIVING! GRACE IN GIVING comes from our having RECEIVED GRACE!**
- C. Just As Their SAVING GRACE Came From Trusting The LORD, Their GRACE IN GIVING (This SACRIFICING GRACE) Also Came As They Trusted The LORD!**

**II. Their SACRIFICIAL GIVING Was Made While They Were In A Great Trial Of Affliction Themselves! (Vs. 2)**

These were not “*rich Churches*” in the sense of material goods!  
It is easier to give out of an **ABUNDANCE!** But even when we are going through a tough time financially ourselves, the **LORD** can give us **HIS SACRIFICIAL GRACE** to **GIVE!**

i.e. These **CHURCHES** were not self-centered! The **SACRIFICING GRACE** that was upon them was **NOT** smothered by their own trouble and trials!

**SACRIFICIAL GRACE** allows us to see that it is not **US** that’s **GIVING**, but rather **GOD GIVING THROUGH US!** Our dependence is **NOT** on our **RESOURCES**, but on **GOD!** That is the way of **FAITH PROMISE MISSIONS GIVING!**

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**III. Their SACRIFICIAL GIVING Was Made With An ABUNDANCE OF JOY! (Vs 2)**

i.e. They were **GLAD** to be able to make the **SACRIFICE!**  
The **GIFTS** were not given **GRUDGINGLY**, but with **JOY!** The **JOY** of **CHRIST** was in their hearts and lives!

Listen to the words of the **APOSTLE PAUL** to the elders in **EPHESUS** in *Acts 20:35*– “*I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*”

These **CHURCHES** in **MACEDONIA** had their focus on **HELPING OTHERS** rather than on the **SACRIFICE** that they were making or the effect that it was going to have on themselves! It gave them **JOY** to be able to **HELP!**

That’s the very best type of **GIVING!** (*2 Corinthians 9:7*)

**IV. Their SACRIFICIAL GIVING Was Made In Spite Of Their Own Deep Poverty! (Vs 2)**

i.e. This was **SACRIFICIAL GIVING** in its purest form! They were poor themselves, but **WANTED TO HELP!**

Remember **JESUS** saying that the widow who cast two mites into the Lord’s treasury gave “*more than they all*” (*Luke 21:3*)  
Others gave out of their abundance, but she gave all that she had because her dependence was on the **LORD!**

The late Dr. John R. Rice said, “*The grace of giving is measured partly by poverty; not by the amount given, but by what is left. The requirement of Jesus for discipleship was not one-tenth but that ‘man forsaketh...all that he that.’ Luke 14:33*”

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**GOD** does not require every man to sell all he has and give it away, but **HE** does require that our loving hearts will count all that we have to be **HIS** and gladly subject what we have to **HIS** control to give or keep as **HE** moves upon our **HEART!**

Too many times folks only want to **GIVE** if it's not going to **COST** them much of anything!

In **2 Samuel 24** there is a story about how **DAVID SINNED** in numbering the people of **ISRAEL**. **GOD** sent a pestilence among his men as punishment and 70,000 of them lost their lives before the angel of the **LORD** stopped the pestilence by the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite.

**DAVID** was given a message from the **LORD** by **GAD** to go and offer a **SACRIFICE** to the **LORD** at that threshingfloor. When he got there Araunah wanted to give **DAVID** the threshingfloor and whatever else he needed to offer the **SACRIFICE**.

But **DAVID** knew that wouldn't be much of a **SACRIFICE**.

*2 Samuel 24:24—“And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.”*

*Their SACRIFICIAL GIVING Was Made In Spite Of Their Own Deep Poverty!*

**V. Their SACRIFICIAL GIVING Was Made WILLINGLY And BEYOND THEIR POWER To Do So! (Vs 3-4)**  
They literally begged **PAUL** to take the gift!

They believed that the **LORD** would bless them and provide for their

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needs if they gave according to **HIS GRACE** upon them!

Do we have that kind of **FAITH** in our **GIVING**?

See **2 CORINTHIANS 9:8**

**VI. Their SACRIFICIAL GIVING Was Made After First GIVING Of Themselves To The LORD! (Vs 5)**

The money they gave was incidental because they first gave themselves to the **LORD!**

If the **LORD** has **US**, then we will see and understand that whatever we have is not really ours, but the **LORD'S!**

Does the **LORD** have you this morning?

**VII. Their SACRIFICIAL GIVING Was Made In Addition To Their Providing For The Needs Of The Men Of God! (Vs 5)**

They didn't rob from **PAUL** and the other men of **GOD** with him in order to give for this special need of the **JERUSALEM CHURCH!**

**VIII. Their SACRIFICIAL GIVING Was An EXAMPLE To Be EMULATED BY OTHERS! (Vs 6-8)**

The **CORINTHIANS CHURCH** abounded in **FAITH**, in **UTTERANCE**, in **KNOWLEDGE**, in **DILIGENCE**, and in **LOVE** for the men of **GOD**, but **PAUL DESIRED** that they **ABOUND** in the **GRACE OF GIVING** also!

**Conclusion**

I'm afraid that too much of what we do for the **LORD** is done without **SACRIFICE**. If we have **SACRIFICED** anything for **JESUS**, **HE** gave us both the **EXAMPLE AND** the **GRACE** to do it! (Vs 9)

Do you **ABOUND** in this **GRACE OF SACRIFICIAL GIVING**?

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(In *vs. 8* we see that **PAUL** didn't **ORDER** or **COMMAND** the **CORINTHIAN CHURCH** to do this, but he did **ENCOURAGE** them to do it based upon their **LOVE** for the **LORD!**)

If we think about and dwell on the **GRACE** that we've received in **CHRIST**, the **SPIRIT OF GOD** will cause this **GRACE OF SACRIFICIAL GIVING** to become an integral part of our life!

**PAUL** spoke of his **SACRIFICE** in coming to **CHRIST** in *Philippians 3:4-8*. If you are not **SAVED** this morning, is there something you need to give up that is holding you back from **TRUSTING THE LORD?**

After his coming to **CHRIST**, **PAUL** made great **SACRIFICES** for the **LORD!** **PAUL** gave his **ALL** for **CHRIST** because **CHRIST** had given **HIS ALL** for **PAUL!** We can never out give our **LORD!**