

2 Cor 8:8

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

- Paul is testing them to see how they're going to respond.

He was reminding them of their prior commitment to the Jerusalem church.

37 But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

This verse was part of the Sermon on the Mount.

- Jesus was telling the crowd of people
- not to break their oaths.

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.

The Lord wants us to invest in eternity,

- not in the temporal.

Jesus gave us the contrast between the temporal and eternal:

John 6:27

27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

John said in speaking of Jesus:

John 1:1-3

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Col 1:15-18

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Heb 1:1-3

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

2 Cor 8:10-11

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.

I don't believe Paul was putting any pressure on the church to give since they'd committed to doing a year earlier.

Commitment can be a difficult thing for some of us.

Nothing we do in life goes unnoticed before the Lord.

2 Cor 8:12-13

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;

Paul was telling the Corinthians, give what you can.

- Don't worry about the amount you give,

Luke 6:38

38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

2 Cor 8:14

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."

Paul wanted them to share willingly.

Verse 15 is a quote from Ex 16:18

Exo 16:18 So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need.

In Exodus 16 God gave the people three different commands concerning the manna.

The first of the three was obeyed.

- God told the people to gather only enough manna for each person in their tent.

However, they disobeyed God's second command.

Ex 16:19-21

19 And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning." 20 Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. 21 So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.

God wanted them to trust Him for their daily bread,

- for their provisions in life.
- They didn't realize it would be 40 years before entering the promise land.
- They didn't trust God for their daily provision.

The Lord provided enough manna for their daily needs.

16 But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus.

17 For he not only accepted the exhortation, but being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord.

Titus went to Corinth on his own accord because he loved the Corinthians.

Luke 10:2

2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Are you willing to get out into the workforce, into God's workforce!

- If the Lord lays something on your heart, are you willing to do it?

18 And we have sent with him the brother whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches,

19 and not only that, but who was also chosen by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us to the glory of the Lord Himself and to show your ready mind,

Some scholars believe this to be Luke.

Whoever this was he was well known and respected by the churches and he had a good reputation in the church and outside of the church. Can that be said of us!

Jesus said:

Matt 24:45-46

45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

We will be faithful to the Lord and we will be doing His work.

One reason these men were chosen was for the sake of accountability:

20 avoiding this: that anyone should blame us in this lavish gift which is administered by us –

21 providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Paul was above reproach and stayed out of the money business of ministry.

In his previous letter he said:

1 Cor 16:1-4

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: 2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. 3 And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. 4 But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.

The churches knew Paul, they knew he was above reproach.

We shouldn't be loose,

- we shouldn't be careless
- with what the Lord has entrusted us with.

We need to steward over what the Lord has given us.

Prov 6:27

27 Can a man take fire to his bosom,
And his clothes not be burned?

Of course not, if you play with fire you'll be burned by fire.

22 And we have sent with them our brother whom we have often proved (he had been tested) diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, because of the great confidence which we have in you.

23 If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren are inquired about, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.

Paul is saying, hey, we're sending another brother as well and he's proved diligent.

- He's been tested and has shown himself to be faithful.

24 Therefore show to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf.

Matt 6:19-21

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.