

- I) V16 INTRO: But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you **into the**  
Paul has been exhorting them to make good on their promise to help the poor
- II) The church had made a commitment to send relief to the poor in Jerusalem  
(V10) It had been a year, and they were yet to make good on their promise  
**IN LIGHT OF THIS**
- III) Paul exhorted them to make good on their promise and to send the gift
- IV) V10-11 Paul said they had the desire, but now it was time to keep their promise  
Having the desire to give does not put food on their table  
It isn't the amount they gave, but the fact that they fulfilled their promise
- V) The Jerusalem believers were in need and the Corinthians could be of great help  
**AS AN EXAMPLE**
- VI) Paul used the churches of Macedonia  
These were believers who were enduring affliction and deep poverty  
Despite this, they were very generous, giving out of love and concern
- VII) Paul used this information to encourage the Corinthians to respond generously  
If **they** were generous it made sense that the Corinthians would also be generous
- VIII) This wasn't a need that had just come up: they had been aware of it for some time  
They had almost **a year** to prepare, so Paul anticipated a large amount of money
- IX) V20 tells us that Paul expected the gift to be generous, **calling it lavish**  
**Lavish:** Abundant; exceedingly generous
- X) Seeing that he anticipated a large monetary gift, plans had to be made to **deliver it**  
The distance between the two areas was between 700 and 800 miles  
This could take several days of travel, and could potentially be dangerous
- XI) Messengers needed to be chosen to deliver the money  
Those who transported the money had to have **impeccable credentials**  
The handling of God's finances was to be done with integrity
- XII) Paul knew that the love of money was the root of all kinds of evil  
More than one **professing believer** had overcome by greed

- I) Eccl 5:10 He who loves money is never satisfied by money, and he who loves wealth is never satisfied by income. This too is futile.
- II) This would have included even one of Jesus' former apostles  
Jn 12:5-6 (**Judas asked**) Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said not that he cared for the poor, but because **he was a thief**, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.
- III) Paul knew the money being taken to the Jerusalem church must be safeguarded  
Because of this, the offering needed to be safeguarded  
**FOR OBVIOUS REASONS**
- IV) Those who carried and delivered the money needed to have impeccable character
- V) As a believer and a man of integrity, Paul was very careful to do things properly  
He has already made it clear he wanted the ministry to be **beyond accusation**  
2 Co 6:3 We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.
- VI) Because of this he appointed **qualified men** to handle the transportation of the gift  
**AS WE BEGIN**
- VII) V16 Paul speaks to them of Titus, someone they are already familiar with  
**WHO WAS THIS MAN**
- VIII) Titus was a trusted and mature believer in Jesus  
Titus had come to faith in Jesus through Paul's ministry and was **a son to him**
- IX) In Titus 1:4 (Paul called) Titus, **my own son** after the common faith  
**IMPORTANTLY**
- X) Gal 2:3 Tells us that he was a gentile, as were the Corinthians  
**REMEMBER**
- XI) When the church was young, a controversy had erupted over gentiles  
There were those from Judea teaching that Gentiles needed to be circumcised  
Ac 15:1 Certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, **you cannot be saved**  
**THEY WERE COMBINING THE LAW WITH GRACE**
- XII) This was such an important issue that a church council had to be called  
It is called the **Jerusalem council** and Titus participated in the meeting
- XIII) This made him an example of a Gentile believer in Christ

- I) Paul used Titus **as proof** that **circumcision** wasn't necessary for salvation  
Titus was at the council meeting, and Paul used him as proof of God's grace  
Gal 2:3 Even Titus who was with me was not forced to be circumcised though he was Greek
  
- II) Salvation is offered to all, both Jew and Gentile  
Eph 2:12-13 (says Gentiles before they were saved) were **separate** from Christ, **excluded** from citizenship in Israel and **foreigners** to the covenants of the promise, without **hope** and **without God** in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
  
- III) When Gentiles came to faith in Jesus, they were brought into God's family  
Eph 2:14-16 For He himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in His flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.
  
- IV) Titus was an example of someone who had been saved by grace, not the law  
Salvation is not simply conforming to religious rules but a matter of the heart  
Ro 2:29 A Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision **is a matter of the heart**, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man, but from God  
Gal 5:6 In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. What matters **is faith** expressing itself through love
  
- V) As a gentile, he was a great example of God working with both Jew and Gentile  
Titus eventually pastored a church in Crete
  
- VI) In this letter, Paul mentions Titus in ch 2:13; 7:6-7, 13-14; 8:16-17, 23; 12:18  
He was well known to the Corinthian church
  
- VII) As Paul's representative Titus had met with them, and had grown to love them  
2 Co 7:13 tells us that the Corinthians had refreshed his spirit  
This had helped Titus to have a **sincere love** for them
  
- VIII) V16 Refers to the **earnest care** that he had for the *spiritual state* of the Corinthians  
**Earnest**: diligence in accomplishing, promoting, or striving after anything

- I) This earnest care was *the same kind* that Paul had for the Corinthians  
**APPLICATION**
- II) This kind of earnest concern for *ministering to people* comes from the Lord  
It was more than human empathy, which many people have
- III) There are many people with genuine concern and care for those in need  
This is commendable and makes our world a better place in a practical sense  
**IN THE CASE OF TITUS**
- IV) His was a *spiritual* concern for people to know Jesus  
This concern for people *to know Jesus* comes from God, not the world or us
- V) Paul said that Titus had the *same earnest care* for them  
*The same* would speak of the same kind that Paul himself had for them  
2 Co 7:3 (He had said to them) I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together  
**THE FACT IS**
- VI) Paul was concerned for the church to complete their promised offering  
The church in Jerusalem was in great need, and Paul cared deeply about them
- VII) Titus also desired the Corinthians to complete their promised gift  
This would make him trustworthy of safeguarding the offering  
**WHERE DID THIS LOVE COME FROM**
- VIII) V16 Paul said that *it was God* who put the same earnest care for them in his heart  
Every pure desire and *inclination* to bless others came from God
- IX) This love was not self-generated, but was love that *God had put in his heart*  
This is part of the work of His Spirit in the lives of Christians  
Eph 2:10 We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus *for good works*, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them
- X) Paul loved the Corinthians, and Titus had *the same kind of love* that Paul did  
His love for them was not emotional but an obvious work of the Holy Spirit  
Gal 5:22 tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love
- XI) Titus loved the Corinthians and could be trusted to deliver their offering  
**SADLY**
- XII) This kind of love for the church seems to be rare today, even in *the ministry*

- I) It can be difficult to find assistants that have this kind of love for the church  
I asked Chuck if I could put on an assistant pastor's conf: no interest  
Why? All the assistants wanted to become senior pastors
- II) Paul was blessed to have at least two men like this: Titus, and Timothy  
Phil 2:19-22 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send **Timothy** to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded, who will **sincerely care** for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. But you know his proven character that as **a son with his father** he served with me in the gospel.
- III) God had put the **same earnest love** in Titus' heart for them  
This means he would not be inclined to steal the money he was entrusted with  
**CONTINUING**
- IV) V17 For he not only **accepted the exhortation**, but **being more diligent** he went to **He accepted the exhortation** to receive the Jerusalem offering (V6)
- V) This reveals that Titus was **authorized** by Paul, and was **personally eager** to do so  
He had eyes **that saw** the need and **a heart** that desired to be used **to meet it**  
**PRACTICAL**
- VI) **In ministry** it is important for **assistants** that see the needs that are in front of them  
This requires spiritual **gifting**, but also **training, maturity, trust, and humility**
- VII) Paul did not see him as a **qualitatively lesser** minister  
He saw Titus as a fellow laborer and brother in Christ  
2 Co 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not **Titus my brother**  
**STILL**
- VIII) The fact that he accepted the exhortation shows that Titus was authorized by Paul  
Being **authorized** means that he was acting at the request and orders of Paul
- IX) V17 But being more diligent he went to you **of his own accord**  
He was so eager that he didn't even need to be requested to go
- X) Titus **personally owned** the same concern and went on his own accord  
He was not a novice and did not need instruction on how to care for others  
This love for them motivated him to desire to see them

- I) He had an *urgent care* and a *desire to minister* that came from within his own heart
- II) This reveals that he had the heart of a *Pastor*, an office he came to one day hold  
He served as a pastor on the island of ancient Crete  
This love and concern made him a good man to perform this task
- III) V18-22 And we have sent with him *the brother* whose praise is in the gospel  
Paul sent two men with Titus who were recognized as spiritual men (V18, 22)  
They came with Titus to receive the offering for the Jerusalem church
- IV) By sending these two other men, Paul exercised wisdom  
He safeguarded **Titus** and **himself** from accusations of financial wrongdoing  
**APPLICATION**
- V) Wisdom in handling church finances is of utmost importance  
**WHY**
- VI) Because **the love of money** has been the downfall of many a minister of the gospel
- VII) Billy Graham was asked what sins can bring down a pastor  
Women, pride, and money
- VIII) This gives us insight into what Paul listed as qualifications for spiritual leadership  
1 Ti 3:3, 8 and Titus 1:7 (Bishop's and deacon's) are not to be **greedy for money**
- IX) Another sad example of what the love of this world produces is found in Demas  
Demas was a fellow minister with Paul, but he did not finish well  
2 Ti 4:10 Demas has forsaken me **having loved this present world** and is departed  
for Thessalonica
- X) The handling of God's money is intended to be done with **integrity**  
This safeguards us from the sin of greed as well as the temptation to rob God  
The money belongs to God and should be used to glorify Him  
**PRACTICAL APPLICATION**
- XI) For many years we have had an outside auditing firm overseeing financial gifts.  
They review our expenditures and ensure financial accountability. They review our  
financial policies and procedures, and give us advice and direction in our internal  
controls in order to safeguard this church from even the appearance of wrongdoing

- I) These men were unnamed, but their integrity is spoken of and well known  
**WHAT WERE THESE MEN LIKE?**
- II) V18 He speaks of a brother whose praise **is in the gospel** throughout all the  
**FIRST**
- III) He was a man of impeccable character, known by them as a sincere believer  
Pr 22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches  
**SECOND**
- IV) V19 He was **chosen by the churches** to travel **with Paul** with the gift  
The Macedonian churches had appointed him, as well as the Corinthians  
He was recognized as being qualified to do this, based on his integrity
- V) The churches agreed, both Macedonian and Corinthian, that he was a good fit  
Paul spoke of this in his first letter to the Corinthians  
1 Co 16:3-4 When I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men **you**  
**approve** and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable for me to go  
also, they will accompany me.  
**NOTICE**
- VI) V19 Paul says this gift which is **administered** by us **to the glory of the Lord**  
There are two things we can see here  
**FIRST**
- VII) Paul recognized himself as a steward of **God's** finances  
A steward is one who is responsible for someone else's goods
- VIII) All Christians are stewards because we manage things belonging to God  
We know that God owns all things  
Haggai 2:8 The silver is **mine**, and the gold **is mine**, says the LORD of hosts
- IX) This means that Paul knew that he was the administrator, not the owner  
He had been given responsibility for these things and did it **as service to the Lord**  
1 Co 4:1-2 Men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted  
with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust  
must prove faithful.  
**SECOND**
- X) He knew that he was to do it in a way that brings glory to the Lord  
This speaks of accountability to avoid stumbling others, or accusation of misuse  
He was avoiding any offenses that would result in criticism or scandal  
**NOTICE**

- I) V19 Paul says **to show your ready** mind: To reveal your zeal, your inclination  
He had spoken of them desiring to give by referring to their **ready mind** (V12)  
They showed **eagerness** to care for the poor, so he encourages them to give  
**AGAIN**
- II) They had not yet given but had only **promised** to give (V6, 10-11)  
This is intended to encourage them to make good on their promise
- III) V20 **Avoiding this**: that anyone should **blame us** in this lavish gift which is  
He had already addressed this in V4  
His detractors would accuse him of **taking money from the poor**  
**HIS PLAN**
- IV) In putting together a trusted team, he was safeguarding himself from accusation  
His companions could bear witness that the money he collected was all intact  
Seeing that they trusted these men, Paul's honor would be safeguarded
- V) Paul spoke of a **lavish gift** which is an incentive for them to be generous  
This is a subtle encouragement for them to be generous
- VI) They had a year to collect the finances, so a large amount should be given
- VII) V21 Providing honorable things not only in the sight of the Lord but also *in the*  
This is a way of making it clear that his motives were pure
- VIII) He was aware people would judge him and aware of his need to be honorable  
People are quick to accuse ministers of greed (3 story house?)  
Paul wants to safeguard the gospel reputation  
**HIS POINT**
- IX) We safeguard ourselves against accusations, avoiding the appearance of evil  
We desire to please God as well as men: We do not want to cause any to stumble
- X) This is something that every believer should take to heart  
Our lives impact others, so we should be aware of what they are seeing
- XI) V22 And we have sent with them **our brother** whom we have often proved diligent
- XII) The second brother is referred to as **one often proved diligent in many things**  
His reputation was that he was faithfully consistent over time and trial

- I) Some people start out well but do not remain on fire  
When disappointment or affliction enter their lives, they lose their zeal and love
- II) This was a man who remained consistent over the course of time  
The church was a witness to his diligence and faithfulness  
This made him a good choice
- III) V23 If anyone inquires about Titus he is my partner and fellow worker concerning  
**FINALLY**
- IV) Paul closes with his highest recommendation of Titus  
As a partner in ministry, he was above reproach and greatly trusted by Paul
- V) All of these men have God's seal of approval, so welcome them warmly as they  
come to you to receive from you the gift you have prepared because you can trust them
- VI) V24 Therefore show to them and before the churches the proof of your love and of
- VII) As you receive them, you are also demonstrating your love for God, and me  
You also are revealing that you are worthy of my boasting about you
- VIII) Titus discovered **you** to be loving believers (7:13) and these men will too  
Receive them affectionately and give them the honor they should receive