

- I) V10-15 INTRO: And in this I **give my advice** (opinion): It is to your advantage not **REVIEW**
- II) Paul is urging them to fulfill a promise to financially help the church in Jerusalem
The Corinthians had promised to send financial aid and had yet to do so
It had been a year and they had yet to send the aid to them
- III) This promise had not been fulfilled, so Paul is exhorting them to keep their word
- IV) (V7) Paul had told them that they were a church that abounded in God's gifts
They abounded in grace, speech, knowledge, as well as in their love for Paul
- V) Since they were so abounding in these things, they should also be generous
This is because the spiritual power and love of Christ is caring for others
1 Jn 3:17 If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, **how does God's love** abide in him?
Gal 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, **especially** to those who are of the household of faith.
- VI) Abound **in this grace** also, which reveals the love of God in you to others
AS WE SAW
- VII) Paul used the Macedonian churches as an example for the Corinthians
This is because we can learn by the example of others
Phil 4:9 The things which you **learned** (taught) and **received** (accepted) and **heard** (comprehended) and **saw** (life) in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.
THE FACT IS
- VIII) We can acquire knowledge through the **teaching** and **preaching** of God's Word
As believers, we need to go further than just acquiring lecture information
- IX) One of the **practical** ways we learn is by seeing someone model the message
This is the reason Paul used **the example** of the Macedonian churches
Their generosity should motivate the Corinthians to act on their promise
THE MACEDONIANS WEREN'T THE ONLY EXAMPLE
- X) He also used the **churches of Galatia** as examples (also Gentile churches)
1 Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders **to the churches of Galatia** so you must do also
- XI) In this way he gives us insight into **proper motivations** for our giving to the Lord

- I) God's grace **towards us** produces **sincere love** for Christ and others
- II) **Notice** V1, 9 emphasize God's **grace** and love for us
God's grace had motivated the Macedonians to tremendous generosity
- III) They understood the incredible grace of God, and first **gave themselves** to Him
This deep understanding motivated them to love and generosity to others
FACT
- IV) Understanding God's grace is something that Paul desired for all believers
Eph 1:18 (he prayed) that the eyes of (our) understanding might be enlightened and they (we) might know what **is the hope of His** calling and what are **the riches of the glory** of His inheritance in the saints
GENEROUS CONCERN RESULTS
- V) When our eyes **are opened**, we **have hope**, and we consider **the riches of glory**
The Macedonian churches had responded powerfully to the grace of God
Because they understood this, Paul said they responded properly to needs
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN
- VI) V5 (says) **they first** gave themselves to the Lord, and **then to us** by the will of God
This is the **key to giving**: first giving yourself to the Lord and **then** to others
Giving yourself to others is the visible fruit of first giving yourself to Jesus
- VII) Giving yourself to the Lord is **the foundation** of the care of others
It all begins with our love and relationship to the Lord
It starts with our understanding of His immense grace, to us
- VIII) When **we receive** His grace, generosity **towards others** can become a way of life
- IX) We see this in the lives of those who have realized how deep God's love is
Giving to others begins after you have first given yourself to the Lord
- X) We see this in the life of a rich tax collector named Zacchaeus
He was a small man and heard that Jesus was passing through Jericho
- XI) He couldn't see Him, so he climbed a sycamore tree, since Jesus passed that way
Jesus stopped, looked up and spoke to him: I must stay at your house today!
Zacchaeus climbed down and with joy welcomed Jesus to his home

- I) The people hated Zacchaeus and were displeased that Jesus went to his home
Lu 19:8 Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"
- HE GAVE HIMSELF TO JESUS, AND THEN OTHERS**
- II) Repentance and conversion provoked spontaneous generosity **towards others**
Grace and love are to direct us to consider the needs of others
- III) This is what moved the Macedonians and Galatians to care for those in Jerusalem
They **experienced** the grace of God, and were motivated to give aid
AS I MENTIONED BEFORE
- IV) V2 They were under a great trial of affliction and enduring a time of deep poverty
These are normally things that would prevent us from caring for others
Even if we cared about them, we are going to first care for ourselves
- V) V2 In spite of persecution and poverty, they gave with a generous, joyful heart
ILLUSTRATION
- VI) In Feb of 2017 we saw this kind of generosity in Cuba: they gave us their food
- VII) This teaches us to give to the Lord joyfully, without complaint against Him
2 Co 9:7 God loves a cheerful giver
- VIII) V3 They not only gave **according** to their ability but even **beyond** their ability
They gave to the Lord sacrificially and generously
- IX) They knew their treasure is in Heaven, and their giving is recorded in Heaven
Mt 6:19-20 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal
- X) The treasure we are to seek is the glory and joy in heaven that will never fade
In heaven we will never lack **anything**, and **nothing** will ever be taken from us
We will have the treasures of peace, and the treasures of blessing
- XI) They knew giving for the **care of those in need** would be rewarded by the Lord
They were laying up treasures, in heaven

I) Phil. 4:15-17 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of **giving** and **receiving**, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be **credited to your account**.

PAUL NOTED HOW THEY GAVE

II) V3 They gave willingly, not being coerced, made to feel guilty, or manipulated
Ex 25:2 Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: from everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take my offering.

III) V4 They **begged him** with much urgency
Urgency: Motivated by love and concern for others and an awareness of the hour

IV) They knew that the time to move was now, not when it was easier or convenient
The need was urgent and had already been delayed for almost a year

AGAIN

V) This is all grounded-on God's grace revealed in His Son Jesus (V9)
As God has **enriched us** in all things, even so we respond with generosity

BEGIN

VI) V10 And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you Paul begins by saying **In this** I give **advice** (an opinion)
This is a gentle way of giving counsel, and not a command

VII) Over the course of a year, many things could have transpired that hindered them

VIII) Still, the Corinthians made their promise to help the church in Jerusalem
The Macedonian churches kept their promise, but the Corinthians had not

IX) V10 His advice that they fulfill their promise is for **their advantage** (well-being)
By keeping their promise, they are safeguarding their **honor** and **reputation**

X) He is exhorting them to have integrity and resist the temptation of selfishness

XI) **A year** had transpired, and they had yet to make good on their promise
They had begun, but had taken a year and had yet to complete their giving

THE FACT IS

XII) Beginning and desiring were not enough: Promises must be fulfilled, not broken

- I) Pr 25:14 Whoever **falsely boasts of giving** is like clouds and wind without rain
1 Jn 3:18 Little children, let us not love in word and speech, but in deed and truth
- II) The **desire was present**, but they had failed to keep their promise to help
- III) V11 but now **you also must complete** the doing of it; that as there was a readiness
You made the promise to help a year ago, so keep your word and fulfill it
- IV) Paul is saying **follow through** with what you have determined and promised to do
Eccl. 5:4-5 When you make a vow to God, **do not delay in fulfilling** it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.

APPLICATION

- V) We can see a need and really desire to meet it, but fail to **follow through**
We might begin to reconsider as we count the cost, or we be talked out of giving
- VI) It is one thing to say you will do something, but another to actually do it
Dt 23:21 When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you.
- VII) V11 You were very eager to give, now be just as eager to complete your giving
You can have a great desire to do something at first, but it fizzles out
Desire is good, but fulfilling the desire is what reveals it to be genuine
- VIII) You may have a desire to help, but they can't survive on **your desire to help**
They require **tangible help**, so it is important for you to finish your promise

THE FACT IS

- IX) Their physical needs can't be need by your good thoughts and wishes for them
Jas 2:16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?
- X) V12 For if there is **first a willing (eager; ready) mind** it is accepted according to
- XI) Paul had already mentioned giving willingly, and not by coercion (V3)
Giving is to be done willingly, which speaks of a readiness to give (9:7)
- XII) A willing and ready mind is a good place to start

- I) V12 The offering is accepted according to **what one has**
His gift is accepted in proportion to the largeness of his heart, not the amount
POINT
- II) We give out of what we **actually have**, not out of what we wish we had
This would include all believers, as the Macedonians have demonstrated
ILLUSTRATION
- III) Today, there are many who make what have been called **faith pledges**
They pledge to give out of what they **are believing** God will give to them
They are promising to give what they don't already have!
- IV) There are stories of unemployed people pledging to give money to ministries
They don't have money but are told if they give, God will give them more money
The celebrity Christian tells them to give so God will give to them
ACTUAL EXAMPLE
- V) Give God something to work with. No matter how little you think you have, sow it
in joy and faith, **knowing in your heart** that you are sowing seed **so you may reap**
miracles. Then start expecting all kinds of miracles!
FACT
- VI) Paul is saying there is no reason to make extravagant faith promises
He says give out of what **you already have**, not out of what **you wish you had**
Dt 16:17 Every man shall give **as he is able**, according to the blessing of the
LORD your God which He has given you
- VII) This is what God uses as a measuring rod: the amount isn't the issue
- VIII) A great example of this would be the widow giving her offering
Lu 21:1-4 He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And
He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. And He said, "Truly I say to you,
this poor widow put in more than all of them; for they all **out of their surplus** put into the
offering; but she **out of her poverty** put in all that she had to live on."
- IX) **The willingness, faith, sacrifice, and follow through** is what counts
- X) V13 For **I do not mean** that others should be eased and you burdened
17TH CHARGE
- XI) The false teachers said Paul makes people give and increases their burdens
Charity begins at home, so why should you give to help strangers?

- I) Perhaps some were grumbling: We have our own problems, yet he says give
HIS RESPONSE
- II) The entire burden of giving aid should not rest on you alone, or a few of you
What one cannot do alone, many can do if working together
- III) Oden's call to me about me telling people what to give for the property
- IV) V14 but **by an equality**, that now at this time **your abundance** may supply their
Equality: to give them the same ability to live in the way that you do
You are able to eat and survive, and **so can they** if you help them
- V) He is saying that with your help, they will be able to survive
He isn't saying to make them rich but to help them have the basics
1 Ti 6:8 If we have food and clothing, we will **be content** with that
- VI) V14 their abundance also may supply your lack
As the church pulls together and helps them, one day they may need help
- VII) Hard times can hit anybody, and you may one day need help
If you find yourself in need, it just may be them who come to your aid
- VIII) It may well be that they are the ones who will care for you
Pr 11:25 A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others **will himself be refreshed.**
- IX) V15 As it is written, "He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who
Paul refers to how God supplied manna in the wilderness for Israel (Ex 16:18)
- X) Everybody had his or her exact needs met by God
He does not intend to satisfy our every desire, but our every legitimate need
Phil. 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory
by Christ Jesus.
APPLICATION
- XI) He often meets the need of His children through the generosity of fellow believers
Titus 3:14 Let our people also **learn** to maintain good works, to meet urgent
needs, **to meet urgent needs**, that they may not be unfruitful
He does not always make manna appear in the wilderness, miraculously

- I) **He often supplies needs through concerned believers**
This generosity is spurred by awareness that you too may one day need help
- II) **How would you want others to treat you?**
Mt 7:12 Whatever you want me to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the prophets
Jas 2:15-16 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?
- III) **Because God cares for us, faith and love are expressed through generosity**
The amazing and humbling thing is that God actually blesses you for doing so
- IV) **Generosity is rewarded with God's blessing (9:6-8)**
Pr 11:24 There is one who scatters yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty.
- V) **The Jerusalem was in genuine need and the Corinthians could be of help**
The people were not trying to take advantage of wealthy believers but needed aid
- VI) **Because their needs were real and urgent, the Corinthians should help**
They had promised to do so, and now Paul urges them to fulfill their promise
- VII) **The amazing thing is that God will bless you for doing so**
Lu 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."