

Review:

2 Corinthians 8:1 Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in *the churches of Macedonia*,

V.2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

1. "the churches of Macedonia"

- a. "Macedonia" was a Gentile church giving money to a Jewish church
 - i. We saw racism between the Jews & the Gentiles (normally hated each other) replaced by love for each other
 - ii. The Macedonians were so poor that they couldn't afford to give, but love constrained them to give anyway
 - iii. It is impossible to be a mature believer & tolerate racism in your heart
- b. But you can't fix racism the world's way
 - i. Humanity is broken and racism, murder, all sin is inherent will always be here
- c. Christ didn't come to fix this world – He came to give new life
 - i. It is wrong for the believer to approach any subject from the world's standards – unless done for the purpose of introducing Christ into the conversation
 - ii. The world has no answers to life – you do
- d. God has a different plan for believers
 - i. While we are on earth this should be our response to racism

Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

¹¹ *a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.*

¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

¹⁴ Beyond all these things *put on love*, which is the perfect bond of unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

- ii. Believers are the salt & light of the world
- iii. Paul continues to talk more about giving V.2

V.2 that *in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.*

V.3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord,

- 1. "in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance...overflowed in...wealth of their liberality"
 - a. **Principle #1.** Circumstances don't dictate whether you give or not

V.4 *begging us with much urging for the favor of participation* in the support of the saints,

- 1. "begging us with much urging for the favor of participation"
 - a. **Principle #2.** Giving is a privilege

V.5 and this, not as we had expected, but *they first gave themselves to the Lord* and to us by the will of God.

- 1. "they first gave themselves to the Lord"
 - a. **Principle #3.** You will never give as you should until you give yourself first

V.6 So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.

V.7 But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also.

V.8 I am not speaking this as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also.

V.9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

V.10 I give my opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, *who were the first to begin a year ago* not only to do this, but also to desire to do it.

V.11 But now finish doing it also, so that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability.

1. "who were the first to begin a year ago" (**V.10**)
 - a. They had started taking an offering, for the poor in Jerusalem, 1 year earlier but had stopped
 - b. **Principle #4** – Giving should be planned – not done on emotional basis!
 - i. We see this is true in 1 Corinthians 16

1 Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

V.2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

V.12 For if the readiness is present, *it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.*

1. "it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have"
 - a. **Principle #5**
 - i. Give as God allows you to give

V.13 For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of equality—

V.14 at this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, so that their abundance also may become a supply for your need, that there may be equality;

V.15 as it is written, "HE WHO gathered MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO gathered LITTLE HAD NO LACK."

1. "HE WHO gathered MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO gathered LITTLE HAD NO LACK"
 - a. He is referring to manna in the wilderness

Exodus 16:4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.

V.14 When the layer of dew evaporated, behold, on the surface of the wilderness there was a fine

flake-like thing, fine as the frost on the ground.

¹⁵ When the sons of Israel saw *it*, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.

¹⁶ "This is what the LORD has commanded, 'Gather of it every man as much as he should eat; you shall take an omer apiece according to the number of persons each of you has in his tent.'"

¹⁷ The sons of Israel did so, and some gathered much and some little.

¹⁸ When they measured it with an omer, he who had gathered much had no excess, and he who had gathered little had no lack; every man gathered as much as he should eat.

¹⁹ Moses said to them, "Let no man leave any of it until morning."

²⁰ But they did not listen to Moses, and some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul; and Moses was angry with them.

- b. Save & enjoy – but don't be a hoarder
- c. Money is basically the same
 - i. There is the principle that those who don't work shouldn't eat!
 - ii. But man places much higher value on money than Scripture does
- c. **Principle #6** – The Bible doesn't place a very high value on money
 - i. So don't put more value on money than it deserves
 - Luke 16:10** "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.
 - ¹¹ "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the *use of unrighteous wealth*, who will entrust the true riches to you?
 - ii. In spite of what you might have heard – the Bible isn't all about money
 - iii. How many messages on Malachi over & over again

Malachi 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

⁹ "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation *of you!*

¹⁰ "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

d. Quality of life & money have little in common

1 Timothy 6:7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

⁸ If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

Hebrews 13:5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

V.16 But thanks be to God who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus.

V.17 For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he has gone to you of his own accord.

V.18 We have sent along with him the brother whose fame in the things of the gospel has spread through all the churches;

V.19 and not only this, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and to show our readiness,

V.20 taking precaution so that no one will discredit us in our administration of this generous gift;

V.21 for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

V.22 We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things, but now even more diligent because of his great confidence in you.

V.23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brethren, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ.

V.24 Therefore openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.

9:1 For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints;

V.2 for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.

V.3 But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared;

V.4 otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to speak of you—will be put to shame by this confidence.

V.5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness.

1. "that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand"
 - a. We know the Corinthians did have a gift for Paul to take b/c of Romans

Romans 15:25 but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints.

²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

- b. Paul wanted the money collected before he got there so no one would be forced to give
 - i. Better translated in NIV

2 Corinthians 9:5 (NIV) So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.

V.6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

V.7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

1. "Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart"
 - a. This is contrary to the idea of tithing
 - b. You are to pray about how much you should give
 - c. We are not under the O.T. law
 - i. Giving is not mandated

V.6 "...not grudgingly or under compulsion"
 - d. Someone will say – "Tithing was before the law b/c Abraham tithed to Melchizedek."
 - i. Circumcision was before the Law also
 - ii. Killing animals for sacrifice was before the Law – but we don't do those things – they are not N.T. standards
 - e. The problem w/ tithing is – many people should be doing more than a tithe

V.8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

1. "God is able to make all grace abound to you"
 - a. This is a principle in general
 - b. If this is caused by giving then it isn't grace – but debt
 - i. God will always give all sufficiency that you may abound in good deeds if you want to live for Him

V.9 as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."

V.10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

V.11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God^(#1).

V.12 For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.^(#2)

1. "also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God"
 - a. Giving should be for God's glory! – It is a form of worship
 - b. We don't give to get – we get to give!

V.13 Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God^(#3) for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,

V.14 while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.

V.15 Thanks be to God^(#4) for His indescribable gift!

1. "His indescribable gift"

a. How can we ever thank Him???

Ephesians 3:8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,