

In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul writes from Macedonia to the believers in Corinth, describing some specific details around worship. What we see here is a particular act of worship involving finances, but relating to much more than just that. As an example, Paul shares some disciplines practiced by the impoverished Macedonian church, that the affluent Corinthians should learn from. Specifically, Paul's message involves giving and how to approach it with the right heart.

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Giving Generously

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

In life we need help, and often in more than one way. While giving help can sometimes be an inconvenience, receiving it can often be even more uncomfortable. No matter how you look at help, or assistance of any kind, whether it be time, expertise, or finances, giving and receiving any kind of assistance requires humility on every party's behalf.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHEN it comes to giving and receiving help, which is more difficult for you?

HOW have you received some kind of assistance that blessed you in a significant way?

CAN you recall a time when you were able to help someone, resulting in you feeling more blessed than them?

WHAT connection can you make between *grace* and *help* or *assistance*? **DESCRIBE** the relationship these two things share.

2 Corinthians

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

8:1-15

Giving Generously

OBSERVATION

What does Paul want his readers to know about the Macedonian church in vs. 1?

According to vs. 2-4, what do you notice about their giving AND their circumstances?

What do you observe in regards to the order of their giving in vs. 5?

How does Paul refer to “this act” of the Macedonians in vs. 6?

What does Paul encourage his audience to excel in (vs. 7)?

Why does Paul say these things, according to vs. 8?

In vs. 9, what connection does Paul make with giving and Jesus?

What judgement does Paul give in vs. 10? What command in vs. 11?

In vs. 12-15, what explanation does Paul give for his point in this section?

INTERPRETATION

Based upon the church’s situation in Macedonia, what is so profound about the way they gave in vs. 1-3?

What does it mean that they, “Gave of their own accord,” in vs. 3?

How does vs. 4 reveal their heart behind their generosity, and what light does vs. 5 shed on why this was their response?

Why do you think Paul connects generous giving to grace in vs. 6?

How can the act of generosity and helpful assistance prove a genuine love toward others (vs. 8)? Consider Matthew 6:21.

Explain how Paul uses Jesus as an example of gracious generosity to strengthen his point in vs. 9.

What is the connection Paul makes between readiness and completion in vs. 12-14?

Why do you think Paul references Exodus 16:18 in the context of this passage (vs. 15)?

APPLICATION

How can you consider Christ’s gracious generosity in your life and grow in the readiness or completion of it toward others?