

While the first half of chapter 8 began with a call to give generously, the second half places a focus on the *integrity* of generous giving. Being sure the financial gift is presented to whom it's for, and that there is solid accountability along the way, is a high priority. The result, for Paul, is to avoid accusations of ulterior motives, but also to demonstrate genuine proof of God's work in the hearts of the church.

2 Corinthians

8:16-9:5

Giving

Generously with Integrity

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Scripture has a lot to say about money. The topic can be one of discomfort for many. Jesus said it's more difficult for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of heaven than it is for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, which may shed light on why many struggle mightily with the idea of living generously with whatever we may have.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT connection can you make between grace and generosity?

HOW important is integrity when it comes to giving generously? **WHAT** are some of the ways integrity can be compromised when it comes to Christian giving?

WHY can our financial giving sometimes reflect our heart for the Lord and things important to Him?

HOW can we, as Christians, sometimes struggle with giving from a willing heart and that of exaction?

2 Corinthians

8:16-9:5

Giving

Generously

with Integrity

Read 2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5

OBSERVATION

What did God put into the heart of Titus (vs. 16-17)?

Who does Paul send with Titus, according to vs. 18 and vs. 22?

What do you observe about these men from what the text says?

According to vs. 20-21, why did Paul send these men?

How does Paul describe the men sent in vs. 23?

What does Paul say to give proof of to the churches in Macedonia (vs. 24)?

In 9:2, what has Paul boasted about to those in Macedonia?

According to 9:3-5, why does Paul say he is sending the brothers?

INTERPRETATION

Why does Paul stress Titus' motivation for going to those in Corinth to be from the Lord and, "Of his own accord"?

What is the "act of grace" mentioned throughout this section? Recall from 8:1-6 the previous "act of grace" from the Macedonians.

What purpose do Titus and the other two men with him serve in the Corinthian church carrying out this specific gift of grace?

Why does Paul mention Proverbs 3:4 (vs. 22) in his letter? How can doing what's right in the site of men potentially backfire?

What is the proof of the Corinthian's love (and Paul's boasting) mentioned in vs. 24?

According to 9:2 the church has been ready with this gift for some time (see 1 Corinthians 16:1-4). Why is this relevant to the situation Paul is addressing?

How might Paul's boasting prove empty (vs. 3)? How might he be humiliated (vs. 4) in this endeavor? Consider what he's already mentioned in 6:1 and how the section ends in vs. 5.

APPLICATION

When it comes to giving, how would you assess your generosity, integrity, and follow through?