

Sermon Notes

Giving - The Joy of Giving I Corinthians 8:1-9, 9:1-9

Why is Paul writing to the Corinthians about giving?

Paul was raising funds for the poor among the believers in Jerusalem. They were struggling to survive and needed help. So Paul seeks to raise funds from the churches in Macedonia and Achaia.. (Romans 16:26)



The churches in cities such as Phillppi, Thessalonica and Berea were in northern Greece, called Macedonia. Southern Greece was called Achaia where the Corinthian church was situated. These were churches Paul had planted which also had their own challenges.

Paul shares how Christian giving works and illustrates this to the Corinthian church, who were the first to promise help to fellow believers in Jerusalem but seemed to be dragging their feet. He does this by demonstrating the generosity of the churches in Macedonia.

The Macedonian Christians illustrate the
Joy of Generous Giving.

What were the circumstances of the Churches in Macedonia? 8:2

How could they be so joyously generous in such circumstances? What did Paul notice about these Macedonian Christians?

“And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the GRACE that God has given the Macedonian churches” 8v1

There is that word again, GRACE! Grace, is what makes Christians different when it comes to giving!

Where does this grace come from?

9 “For you (Corinthians)” writes Paul, and us “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.”

The Macedonians knew how rich they were in Christ.

Do you know how rich you are in Christ? Why not reflect on how rich you are - and praise God for those blessing.

Think of the response of C T Studd to what Christ had done for him:

“If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for him”

How did this affect his life?

How does the reality of what Jesus did for you affect how you use your time, your gifts, your money and possession?

Do I want to be a joyous generous giver?

Does Jesus deserve everything I have ?

At home why not take this opportunity to reflect before the Lord on how rich you are in Jesus.

Then reflect on your giving, your generosity and ask the Lord to show you if you are joyously generous, and if not, how you can be joyously generous.

Generosity includes our time and talents, our possessions and money. Some of us will give to mission and ministries beside the church but why not reflect on your giving to the church.

