

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

August 10, 2022

Series - *The Life and Writings of the Apostle Paul*

The Corinthian Letters

The Last Letter (Second Corinthians)

Text – 2 Corinthians 8 – *The Offering for Jerusalem*

Memory Verse - 2 Corinthians 8:8

I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

Introduction

Paul will now discuss the subject of giving with the church at Corinth. Now that he knows that the Corinthians have the right attitude toward him and the ministry; he feels confident enough of their spiritual maturity to encourage their giving to the saints at Jerusalem. Remember, at the conclusion of *the Long Letter* (1 Corinthians 16:1 - 3), Paul asked them to participate in this offering. It is apparent that at that time there were many other problems that were uncovered by young Timothy that perhaps hindered their giving. When Christians are carnal, oftentimes they do not give to God. Now, however, Paul has stated his confidence in them in all things, and he feels that they are ready to participate in this collection for the saints back in Jerusalem that were suffering. It is important to recognize here, however, that the offering referred to here is not the tithe. The tithe should be given to the local church for the support of the local church. Offerings are over and above the tithe. Remember the tithe was committed before the law was given (Genesis 14:20; 28:22); it was commanded in the Law; and it was commended by the Lord Jesus (Luke 11:42). The tithe is a Biblical principal that should be encouraged and taught in the Christian churches today. It is the starting point in giving for the Christian. (Malachi 3:8 – 12; Haggai 1:6) The tithe is obedience; it is commanded. If all you do is tithe, you are an unprofitable servant (Luke 17:10); but you demonstrate the sincerity of your love by giving offerings over and above the tithe.

I. The Example in Giving (vs. 1 – 5; 9)

A. The Saints in Macedonia (vs. 1 – 5)

Notice the word grace is here associated with giving. (vs. 1; 6 & 7) Giving is something we should all do; but some will be gifted in the area of giving. (Romans 12:8)

1. They were in deep poverty.
2. They gave beyond their power.
3. They prayed to be part of the offering.

B. The Savior (v. 9)

1. He was rich.
2. He became poor for our sakes. (Philippians 2:5 – 8)
3. His poverty provided us with great riches.

II. The Exhortation to Give (vs. 6 – 15)

A. He exhorts them to prove their sincerity. (v. 8; 24)

You can give without loving; but you cannot love without giving

For God so loved the world, that he gave... (John 3:16)

B. He exhorts them to give willingly (vs. 11 & 12)

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. (2Corinthians 9:7)

C. He exhorts them to give liberally from what they have (v. 12); yet he does not command them to give sacrificially as the Macedonians willingly did.

D. He exhorts them to give what they had committed to previously. (v. 6; 10 & 11)

III. The Envoy for the Offering (vs. 16 – 24)

A. Titus (vs. 16 – 18)

1. Paul's partner. (v. 23)
2. Paul's fellow helper (v. 23)

B. The Brother (v. 18) - could be Luke (12:18; Acts 20)

1. A man who was respected by the churches. (v. 18)
2. A man who was chosen by the churches. (v. 19)
3. A man who provided accountability regarding the offering. (vs. 20 – 21)

C. Another Brother (v. 22) who has proven himself to be diligent.