



**INTRODUCTION:** One year prior to Paul's writing these words, he was in the city of Corinth and challenged them about a special need of those in Jerusalem. Hearing about this need, they quickly and zealously responded, and Paul assumed they were sincere. But a year passes, and Corinth has not kept that promise. When he left Corinth, however, he traveled to Macedonia, and told them of what the Corinthians had promised. Hearing that, they also made a commitment to give. The difference was that they kept their promise, while Corinth did not. So now Paul writes to the church at Corinth to remind them of that unfulfilled commitment.

#### **I. THE EXPRESSION OF GRACE GIVING (II CORINTHIANS 8:2)**

##### **A. THEY GAVE IN SPITE OF GREAT AFFLICTION**

##### **B. THEY GAVE IN SPITE OF DEEP POVERTY**

#### **II. THE METHOD OF GRACE GIVING**

##### **A. THEY GAVE SACRIFICIALLY TO THEIR POWER (II CORINTHIANS 8:3)**

They gave according to their ability.

##### **B. THEY GAVE BEYOND THEIR POWER (II CORINTHIANS 8:3)**

Tithing was not only under the law. Hundreds of years before the law, Abraham understood tithing when he took his tithes to Melchizedek.

Long before the law, Jacob understood the tithe when he said this:

*Genesis 28:22, "And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."*

##### **C. THEY GAVE ENTHUSIASTICALLY (II CORINTHIANS 8:4)**

It's the grace of God when God's people ask to give instead of being begged to give. This was Grace; Not Pressure.

#### **III. THE PURPOSE OF GRACE GIVING (II CORINTHIANS 8:4; 11:7-9)**

The major reason for the offering was not for benevolence, but rather for world-evangelization.

Who are these Macedonian churches? The church at Philippi and the church at Thessalonica. If you were to look all throughout the books of Philippians and I & II Thessalonians, and search for any benevolence giving, you won't find it.

*Philippians 4:14-19, "14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. 15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. 18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. 19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

Paul was the one in need of an offering, and Paul was a missionary. Paul leaves Philippi and travels deeper into Macedonia to the city of Thessalonica.

*I Thessalonians 1:6-9, "6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: 7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. 9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;"*

This little group did such a good job in their missions' program that they reached all of Greece before Paul could even get there.

#### **IV. THE EMPOWERMENT OF GRACE GIVING (II CORINTHIANS 8:5)**

##### **A. THEY HAD SURRENDERED THEMSELVES FIRST (II CORINTHIANS 8:5)**

##### **B. THEY WERE PROVING THEIR LOVE (II CORINTHIANS 8:7-8)**

#### **V. THE EXAMPLE IN GRACE GIVING (II CORINTHIANS 8:9-12)**

##### **A. HE GAVE PERSONALLY**

*Philippians 2:5-8, "5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."*

##### **B. HE GAVE WILLINGLY (II CORINTHIANS 8:11-14)**

*Luke 12:48, ". . . For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."*