

“Giving That Pleases God”
2 Corinthians 8:1-15
Sunday April 19, 2015

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

There are at least **2,350 passages** in the Bible dealing with money and material possessions. That’s more than any other subject.

There are 38 parables of Jesus, 12 have to do with money, resources, material goods.

In the 4 Gospels, 1 out of every 8 verses speak of money.

8 Principles of Giving That Pleases God:

1. Verse 1 – Giving That Pleases God Demonstrates God’s Grace:
2 Corinthians 8:1

Grace – The word means “that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness.” This sustaining power here is called **“Grace Giving”**.

Verse 6 – “gracious work”

Verse 7 – “gracious work”

Verse 9 – “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Verse 19 – “gracious work,”

Macedonia is Asia Minor which is present day Turkey; Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea.

2. Verse 2 – Giving That Pleases God Is Giving In Spite Of Circumstances: **2 Corinthians 8:2**

“great ordeal of affliction” – “Being place under great pressure, to determine worth.”

“deep poverty” – “Destitute”

They Were Giving In Spite Of Circumstances!

NT teaches “Grace Giving”; The OT (To Israel) was to Tithe – 10% along with other offerings; As much as 30-35% of income was given to God.

God is concerned about Attitudes (The Heart) and Actions!

“Liberality” – “give with the single-minded purpose to glorify God, uncalculating and free from ulterior motives.”

I think it bears out that the poor give more in percentage than those that are rich! Because the wealthy want to hang on to it!

**3. Verses 3-4 – Giving That Pleases God Is Willing And Sacrificial:
2 Corinthians 8:3**

Gave Their All: “For I testify that according to their ability,”

Gave Sacrificially: “and beyond their ability” – Speaks of giving sacrificially.

2 Sam 24:24

Gave Willingly: “they gave of their own accord,” – “according to their own choosing.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

2 Corinthians 8:4

Begging To Give.

Tabernacle of Moses Building Project: Exodus 36:5-7

**4. Verses – 5-6 Giving That Pleases God Is Worshiping God:
2 Corinthians 8:5**

Giving Is An Act Of Worship!

2 Corinthians 8:6

People can get so emotionally charged about a cause and make commitments to a cause, but we must follow through on what we have committed to.

**5. Verse 7 – Giving That Pleases God Gives Evidence Of Growth:
2 Corinthians 8:7**

“But just as you abound in everything,” – These believers had blessed lives.

"in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you," – Spiritual Graces

"When God has our heart, He also has our wallet."

Romans 12:8 – "he who gives, with liberality"

**6. Verse 8 – Giving That Pleases God Demonstrates Love:
2 Corinthians 8:8**

"I am not speaking this as a command," – it was testimony and instruction.

"We Can Give Without Loving, But We Cannot Love Without Giving!"

John 3:16

**7. Verses 9-12 – Giving That Pleases God Confirms Our Sonship:
2 Corinthians 8:9**

What did Jesus hold back? He gave His all! Romans 8:32

"What Jesus did should be seen in what we do!" We should love, forgive, forbear and give!

2 Corinthians 8:10

When we give to God, it does several things:

- 1. Giving To God Breaks The Human Self-Centeredness.**
- 2. Through Giving, We Become Extensions/Channels Of God.**

There are 3 things that we can use to invest in eternity:

- 1. Our time**
- 2. Our talents, gifts and abilities**
- 3. Resources**

2 Corinthians 8:11

"But now finish doing it also;" – Honor your commitment in our giving!

Followers Of God Are Both Willing And Faithful In Their Giving:
“readiness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability.”

2 Corinthians 8:12

**8. Verses – 13-15 Giving That Pleases God Brings Balance:
2 Corinthians 8:13**

Those that have an abundance of resources have been given a responsibility! 1 Timothy 6:6-10; 17-19 – God has blessed in order to bless others!

2 Corinthians 8:14

2 Corinthians 8:15 – Paul is referring to Exodus 16:16-21.

Application:

1. Giving Is Not A One Time Gift, Nor An Occasional Gift, But A Lifestyle.
2. When Instruction On Giving Is Presented Biblically, No Christian Should Ever Have A Bad Attitude About It.
3. Am I Giving Back To God What Is Rightfully His? Matthew 22:21
4. Tithing Is An Old Testament Teaching For Israel. The Christian Is Under Grace. Because Of Grace, The Believer Is Liberated And Can Give Beyond The OT Giver.