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**2 Corinthians 8**  
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By Dan Maines

## 2 Corinthians 8

### 2 Corinthians 8:1-2

Now, brothers and sisters, we make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

† Paul begins by holding up the Macedonian churches as an example of generosity.

† Despite poverty and affliction, they gave with joy and liberality.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 2) praised the early church for its generosity even in trials.

## **2 Corinthians 8:3-4**

For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave voluntarily, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints.

† True giving is not forced, but voluntary and sacrificial.

† The Macedonians considered it a privilege to help the saints in Jerusalem.

## **2 Corinthians 8:5**

And this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

† Giving flows from first surrendering to God.

† Their lives were placed in service before their resources.

## **2 Corinthians 8:6-7**

So we urged Titus that just as he had previously begun, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well. But just as you excel in everything, in faith, speech, knowledge, and in all earnestness, and in the love we inspired in you, see that you also excel in this gracious work.

† Paul urges the Corinthians to excel in giving as they do in other spiritual gifts.

† Generosity is as much a mark of discipleship as faith and knowledge.

## **2 Corinthians 8:8-9**

I am not saying this as a command, but as proving, through the earnestness of others, the sincerity of your love as well. For you 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.

† Paul appeals not with command, but with love.

† Christ's own example is the ultimate standard of sacrificial giving.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Ephesians 8) recalled Christ's humility and self-emptying, inspiring generosity.

## **2 Corinthians 8:10-11**

I give my opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do this, but also to desire to do it. But now, finish doing it as well, so that just as there was the willingness to desire it, so there may also be the completion of it by your ability.

† Paul calls the Corinthians to finish what they began.

† Willingness must be matched with action.

## **2 Corinthians 8:12**

For if the willingness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

† God accepts giving that is according to ability, not beyond it.

† Faithful giving is measured by the heart, not the amount.

## **2 Corinthians 8:13-14**

For this is not for the relief of others and for your hardship, but by way of equality, at this present time your abundance will serve as assistance for their need, so that their abundance also may serve as assistance for your need, so that there may be equality.

† Paul emphasizes mutual care in the body of Christ.

† Giving is not about burdening one group but sharing so all have enough.

## **2 Corinthians 8:15**

As it is written: "The one who had gathered much did not have too much, and the one who had gathered little did not have too little."

† Paul recalls Exodus 16:18 about manna, where God provided for all equally.

† The same principle applies to giving in the church.

## **2 Corinthians 8:16-17**

But thanks be to God who puts the same earnestness in your behalf in the heart of Titus. For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he has gone out to you of his own accord.

† Titus served as a faithful example of eagerness in ministry.

## **2 Corinthians 8:18-19**

But we have sent along with him the brother whose fame in the things of the gospel has spread through all the churches, and not only that, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and to show our readiness.

† Paul ensured transparency and accountability by sending trusted brothers.

† This safeguarded both the gift and his ministry.

## **2 Corinthians 8:20-21**

Taking precaution so that no one will discredit us in our administration of this generous gift, for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of other people.

† Integrity in handling resources is vital for ministry.

† Leaders must act honorably before God and people.

## **2 Corinthians 8:22-24**

We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things, but now even more diligent because of his great confidence in you. As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for you, as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ. Therefore, openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.

† Paul commends the men sent with Titus as faithful servants.

† He urges the Corinthians to prove their love openly through generosity.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 2.25) affirmed the reputation of the early leaders, showing the importance of trust in such missions.

### **How it applies to us today**

† 2 Corinthians 8 calls believers to generosity rooted in Christ's example.

† Giving is not about amounts but willingness, sincerity, and completion of intent.

† Transparency and integrity in handling resources are essential in God's work.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, generosity is a mark of love and participation in God's grace.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

### **Source Index**

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 2 - early church generosity in trials

† Ignatius, Letter to the Ephesians 8 - Christ's humility inspiring generosity

† Exodus 16:18 - manna gathered with equality

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2.25 - trustworthiness of early

leaders

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