



September 23 & 24, 2017
Ken Long, Senior Pastor

Part I

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 by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

I. Godly Giving: Illustrations

A. The Macedonian Believers

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,

2 Corinthians 8:1

1. Their joy in the face of persecution

for in a severe test of affliction their abundance of joy . . .

2 Corinthians 8:2a

2. Their generosity in the face of poverty

. . . and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—

2 Corinthians 8:2b-4

3. Their surrender to the Savior

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

2 Corinthians 8:5

B. The Lord Jesus Christ

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 by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

1. What He was: Rich.

2. What He became: Poor.

but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:7-8

3. Why He did it: For us.

Our primary motive for giving is grace.

II. Godly Giving: Instructions

A. Give lovingly.

*But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your **love also is genuine**.*

2 Corinthians 8:7-8

B. Give willingly.

*I say this not as a command . . . And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to **desire to do it**.*

2 Corinthians 8:8a, 10

C. Give realistically.

*So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to **what a person has, not according to what he does not have**.*

2 Corinthians 8:11-12

D. Give confidently.

For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.

2 Corinthians 8:13-14

. . . but they gave themselves first to the Lord.

2 Corinthians 8:5b