

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 8:1-9

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN – PART 1

developing and maintaining your new life in christ.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Repentance, Salvation, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

2nd Corinthians 8:1-9

Well aren't you all privileged to be here today.

I have never taught on this topic before. Since August of 1990 to today, we've had no sermons on tithing or giving or a building fund or some financial campaign. - - *and we're not about to start now !*

As we come now to chapters 8-9, Paul deals with the issue of giving. A hot topic regardless...

Why is giving such a touchy issue among us humans ?

(the answer is very easy – as people, its something that provides for us, either real or imagined – security, comfort, power, freedom. In short, we love money and we love to think that money can do for us what a god can do. the more money we have the less we need God – in fact our money becomes our god if we depend on it.

Luke 16:13

"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and **mammon**."

mammon μαμμωνᾶς **mammonas**, *mam-mo-nas'*; of Chaldee origin (confidence, i.e. wealth, personified); **mammonas**, i.e. avarice (deified): –mammon.

a Chaldean or Syriac word meaning "wealth" or "riches".

In the Greco roman world of Jesus' day, Mammon's name was Plutus or Pluto,

Pictured is The god of Wealth Pluto being held here by Irene

The Background to Chapters 8-9

The Christian church was born in Jerusalem and the Gospel was first preached there. Christianity had made a huge impact but with that came persecution.

There was also a series of droughts that had brought on a famine in that region of the middle east and Israel was hurting and the church was suffering.

Throughout Macedonia in cities like Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea, Now these missionary churches wanted to send financial support to the mother church.

However during that time, the Corinthian Christians had never supported ministry outside of themselves and even within there was questions about that.

Observation: It's interesting to note here that the word "Grace" - χάρις **charis**, *khar'-ece*; which means to benefit, to favor, to gift, to bring pleasure to another. (gifting) appears here more often than any other place in scripture. These 2 chapters are also the most extensive instruction on new testament giving.

Eph. 2:8-9

For by **grace** you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **9** not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Eph. 2:8-9 NLT

God saved you by His **grace** when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. **9** Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

The **grace** of God is the **goodness** of God

in all of its fullness - which demands that it be spent, given, bestowed, poured out upon another. God delights in giving and this "giving" of God is His "Grace or Gracing"

Psalm 50:10-12

For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. **11** I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine. **12** "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.

Giving What's Been Given

2 Cor. 8:1-9

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you **the grace of God bestowed** on the churches of Macedonia: **2** that in a **great trial of affliction** the **abundance of their joy** and **their deep poverty abounded in the riches** of their **liberality**. **3** For I bear witness that **according to their ability**, yes, and **beyond their ability**, they were **freely willing**, **4 imploring** us with much **urgency** that we would receive **the gift** and **the fellowship** of the **ministering** to the saints. **5** And not only as we had hoped, but they **first gave themselves to the Lord**, and **then to us** by the will of God. **6** So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete **this grace in you** as well. **7** But as you abound in everything - - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us - - see that you abound **in this grace also**. **8** I speak not by commandment, but I am **testing** the **sincerity** of your love by the **diligence** of others. **9** *For you know **the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.***

Throughout This Study, We Must Keep in Mind the Ever Present Motive, the Model, the Example...

2 Corinthians 8:9

*For you know **the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.***

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

1.) Giving is an act of **grace**

v. 1

The Amazing Thing Is God has invited you and I to **grace** with Him

2 Cor. 8:1

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you **the grace of God bestowed** on the churches of Macedonia:

1 Cor. 16:1-3

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given **orders** to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: **2** On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. **3** And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your **gift** to Jerusalem.

its an act of grace (there is no law to it, only love)

There was Another Reason for Their Great Need.

(on the day of Pentecost and following, a massive crowd had been saved. Many pilgrims had gotten saved and stayed there. The believers quickly liquidated what they owned and distributed the cash among everyone. When the money ran out – they were broke with no ability to sustain their families or the church)

if you would have been a craftsman, a woodworker, store owner, it was expected of you to buy and sell idols. Christians could no longer traffic in deities and falsehood.

>> Here was Paul's Joy <<

he was delighted to see that the gospel had taken effect in the non-Jewish world, the gentiles were flocking to Jesus Christ and a supernatural love was now in their hearts for - not only the Jewish people, but the Jewish church in Jerusalem (the Jews had been born again - born anew as God had promised they would back in Jeremiah 31

GIVING WHAT'S BEEN GIVEN

2.) Giving is an act of **sacrifice**

v. 2-3

The Amazing Thing Here Is
God has invited you and I to give with Him
its an act of sacrifice **(poverty is no excuse) v.2**

2 Cor. 8:2-3

2 that in a **great trial of affliction** the abundance of their joy and their deep **poverty** abounded in the riches of their **liberality**. 3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were **freely** (not harassed, harangued) **willing**,

2Cor. 8:2b

the abundance of their joy and their deep **poverty** abounded in the riches of their **liberality**. (a generous spirit)

Mark 12:41-44

Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a (2) quadrans (or 2 farthings = 2/4 of a penny) . 43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more (most) than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole **livelihood**."

The United States of America

Is the most generous nation on earth. What's interesting about that is most of America's generosity comes from the Middle Class to Lower Class income people by far not the rich, but why?

Those who have suffered have a tendency to have compassion
On those who suffer.

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<<

End of Study

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