

2 Corinthians

Lesson 7

“...but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.”
2 Cor. 8:5

Introduction

- Much false teaching about Christian giving today causing confusion about how local churches are to collect money, to whom they are to give and with what motives are we to give
- Also, among Christians, because of wrong attitudes, there can be a lack of giving as God would have us to do

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Introduction

- Paul writes the Corinthians about the example of the Macedonian churches who had given far beyond their ability to help the needy saints in Jerusalem
- They were able to do this because they had fully given themselves to the Lord to serve Him in all things including giving and to His apostles who were entrusted with revealing His Divine will

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Introduction

- For whatever reasons, the Corinthians had pledged a large gift but had failed to follow through with it
- Paul writes in 2 Cor. 8-9 revealing the Christian's attitudes and conduct in giving to encourage them to willingly give so God would be pleased
- He sends Titus and others hoping the collection will be done before he comes
- This message is also needed for us today ⁴

Christians Are To Meet The Needs Of Others

- All Christian obligations to give to the needy can be found in the command to love your neighbor as yourself
- First, we must care for our families
- Then, as we are able, we must meet the needs of both Christians and neighbors who are lost

5

Love God and Love Neighbor As Yourself

Mat 22:35 One of them, a lawyer, asked Him *a question*, testing Him,

Mat 22:36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

Mat 22:37 And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

6

Love God and Love Neighbor As Yourself

Mat 22:38 "This is the great and foremost commandment.

Mat 22:39 "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

Mat 22:40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

7

We Must Provide For Our Families

Eph 4:28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.

1Ti 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

8

When Able, We Must Meet The Needs of Christians and The Lost

Gal 6:9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

Gal 6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

9

Local Churches Are To Meet The Needs Of Other Christians

1Ti 5:16 If any woman who is a believer has *dependent* widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

10

Local Churches Are To Meet The Needs Of Other Christians

Act 4:34 For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales

Act 4:35 and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

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Local Churches Are To Meet The Needs Of Other Christians

Act 11:29 And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send *a contribution* for the relief of the brethren living in Judea.

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Paul's Instructions On How Local Churches Collect For Needy Saints

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

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Paul's Instructions On How Local Churches Collect For Needy Saints

1Co 16:3 When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem;

1Co 16:4 and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.

14

The Grace of God Produces Willing, Joyful, Sacrificial Giving

2Co 8:1 Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

2Co 8:2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

15

The Grace of God Produces Willing, Joyful, Sacrificial Giving

2Co 8:3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, *they gave* of their own accord,

2Co 8:4 begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

16

The Grace of God Produces Willing, Joyful, Sacrificial Giving

Php 4:14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share *with me* in my affliction.

Php 4:15 You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone;

Php 4:16 for even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift* more than once for my needs.

17

The Grace of God Produces Willing, Joyful, Sacrificial Giving

Php 4:17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.

18

The Grace of God Produces Willing, Joyful, Sacrificial Giving

2Co 9:6 Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

2Co 9:7 Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

19

They First Gave Themselves To The Lord and The Apostles

2Co 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.

2Co 8:6 So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.

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They First Gave Themselves To The Lord and The Apostles

Joh 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

21

They First Gave Themselves To The Lord and The Apostles

Mat 6:25 "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

22

They First Gave Themselves To The Lord and The Apostles

Mat 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Mat 6:34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

23

They First Gave Themselves To The Lord and The Apostles

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

24

The Corinthians Abounded In All Spiritual and Material Things

2Co 8:7 But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also.

25

God Is The Source of All Spiritual and Material Blessings

Deu 8:3 "He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.

26

God Is The Source of All Spiritual and Material Blessings

Deu 8:18 "But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

27

God Is The Source of All Spiritual and Material Blessings

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,
Jas 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

28

Give Because Jesus Graciously Gave Himself For Each of Us

2Co 8:8 I am not speaking *this* as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also.

2Co 8:9 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.

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Give Because Jesus Graciously Gave Himself For Each of Us

1Jn 3:16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1Jn 3:17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

1Jn 3:18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

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“...but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.”

1. Christians are to meet the needs of others
2. Local churches are to meet the needs of other Christians
3. Paul’s instructions on how local churches collect for needy saints
4. Principles of being a gracious giver
5. Blessings of being a gracious giver

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Complete Good Intentions By Giving

2Co 8:10 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*.

2Co 8:11 But now finish doing it also, so that just as *there was* the readiness to desire it, so *there may be* also the completion of it by your ability.

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Complete Good Intentions By Giving

2Co 8:12 For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what *a person* has, not according to what he does not have.

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Purpose of Giving Is To Meet The Needs of Others

2Co 8:13 For *this* is not for the ease of others *and* for your affliction, but by way of equality--

2Co 8:14 at this present time your abundance *being a supply* for their need, so that their abundance also may become a *supply* for your need, that there may be equality;

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Purpose of Giving Is To Meet The Needs of Others

2Co 8:15 as it is written, "HE WHO *gathered* MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO *gathered* LITTLE HAD NO LACK."

35

Carefully and Honestly Handle The Collection For The Needy Saints

2Co 8:16 But thanks be to God who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus.

2Co 8:17 For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he has gone to you of his own accord.

2Co 8:18 We have sent along with him the brother whose fame in *the things of* the gospel *has spread* through all the churches;

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Carefully and Honestly Handle The Collection For The Needy Saints

2Co 8:19 and not only *this*, 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,

2Co 8:20 taking precaution so that no one will discredit us in our administration of this generous gift;

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Carefully and Honestly Handle The Collection For The Needy Saints

2Co 8:21 for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

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Complete Good Intentions By Giving

2Co 9:1 For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints;

2Co 9:2 for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, *namely*, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.

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Complete Good Intentions By Giving

2Co 9:3 But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared;

2Co 9:4 otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we--not to speak of you--will be put to shame by this confidence.

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Complete Good Intentions By Giving

2Co 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness.

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Giving Is Sowing With What God Has First Given Us

2Co 9:6 Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

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God Loves A Willing Cheerful Giver

2Co 9:7 Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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All Service To God Must Be Willing From The Heart

Rom 6:17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, Rom 6:18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

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Contrast Cheerful and Grudging Givers

Act 4:36 Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement),

Act 4:37 and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

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Contrast Cheerful and Grudging Givers

Act 5:1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, Act 5:2 and kept back *some* of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet.

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Health Wealth and Salvation False Teaching

- Many misuse 2 Cor. 9:6 to teach that if Christians give more they will be given more by God so they may have more to consume for themselves
- But, 2 Cor. 9:8-10 reveal that God promises He will provide us with what we need so that we will be able to give to others in need, to His glory
- This is conditional on us trusting Him enough to give to others

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God Is Able To Graciously Supply The Needs of The Cheerful Giver

2Co 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;
2Co 9:9 as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."

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God Is Able To Graciously Supply The Needs of The Cheerful Giver

2Co 9:10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

49

God Is Able To Graciously Supply The Needs of The Cheerful Giver

2Co 8:1 Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,
2Co 8:2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

2Co 8:3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, *they gave* of their own accord,

50

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2Co 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.

51

God Is Able To Graciously Supply The Needs of The Cheerful Giver

Php 4:18 But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

Php 4:19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

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Liberal Giving To Needy Saints Produces Thanksgiving To God

- God is the one who supplies Christians with the material things so they can generously give to needy saints
- God is the one who through Jesus has graciously saved us and has formed our character so that we may be willing generous givers, exercising this gracious gift whenever possible
- From both those who give and receive, God is to be thanked and praised for all

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Liberal Giving To Needy Saints Produces Thanksgiving To God

2Co 9:11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

2Co 9:12 For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

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Liberally Giving To Needy Saints Produces
Deeper Love For One Another

2Co 9:13 Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,

2Co 9:14 while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.

2Co 9:15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

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Freely Exercise All Gracious
Gifts Including Liberal Giving

Rom 12:6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

Rom 12:7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;

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Freely Exercise All Gracious
Gifts Including Liberal Giving

Rom 12:8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

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Freely Exercise All Gracious
Gifts Including Liberal Giving

Mat 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Mat 25:35 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;

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Freely Exercise All Gracious
Gifts Including Liberal Giving

Mat 25:36 naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'

Mat 25:37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink?

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Freely Exercise All Gracious
Gifts Including Liberal Giving

Mat 25:38 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?

Mat 25:39 'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

Mat 25:40 "The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me.'

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