



IBC 7 February 2016

## Learning to Give as We Ought

(Part 1)

### 2 Corinthians 8:1-8

Matthew 6:24-34; Mark 12:38-44

#### This Is for Our Learning - We Must Learn

- Everything that is written in God's Word has been written down for our learning. (Romans 15:4)
- (2 Tim 3:16-17) ALL Scripture is GOD- BREATHED and is **profitable** for:
  - ① **Doctrine** – teaching us what is RIGHT.
  - ② **Reproof** – teaching us what is NOT RIGHT.
  - ③ **Correction** – teaching us how to get RIGHT.
  - ④ **Instruction** in righteousness – teaching us how to stay RIGHT.
  - ⑤ **Equipping** - how to LIVE RIGHT daily.
- (Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4) “Man does not live on bread alone but by **EVERY WORD** of God.”
- HOW DO YOU APPROACH THIS BOOK? As “the Bible” or as “the Word of the Almighty God”?

#### Christians Give Because of GRACE Received (v. 1)

- The churches of Macedonia (Philippi; Berea, Thessalonika) are given as **examples** for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christians in how they view giving.  
- 2 Cor 11:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7; Philippians 2:5; 4:15-16, 18
- Macedonia was a very poor region, subject to many wars, and plundered by the Romans.
- Money (wealth) comes from God. (1 Chron 29:11-12; Deut 8:17-18; Ecclesiastes 5:19)

- All the silver and gold belongs to the LORD. (Joel 3:5; Haggai 2:8; Psalm 24:1; 50:10-12; **1 Corinthians 4:7**)
- Christians give because of GRACE!
- **GRACE works!** (1 Corinthians 15:9-10)
- Christians have God-given priorities in how they live their lives.
  - ★ Matthew 6:31-34

### **Christians Give Despite Very Hard Times** (v. 2a)

- The saints in Macedonia suffered from poverty and persecution. (Acts 17:5-8; 1 Thess 1:6; 2:14-15; 2 Thess 1:4; Philippians 1:29)
- Despite their suffering they gave!
- Other's needs were more important than theirs!

### **Christians Give with an Abundance of Joy** (v. 2b)

- “abundance” means “overflow” – The Macedonian Christians were not just **full** of joy, but had an “**overflow**” of joy!
- HOW CAN THAT BE? Consider Psalm 36:7-9!
- This is the kind of joy that Christ left us!
- “Abiding in Christ” (John 15:5) brings fullness of joy (John 15:11)
  - John 17:13.
- True fellowship with God the Father and God the Son brings fullness of joy – joy that transcends pain, persecution, troubles, and tribulations! (1 John 1:4)
- Habakkuk knew this kind of joy! (Habakkuk 3:17-18)

### **Christians Give Despite Their Own Poverty** (v. 2c)

- “deep” is βάθος bathos {bath'-os}; and we would say, “extremely deep”; “rock bottom”; “the pits”; “at our end”.
- Many things attributed to the Macedonian saints' poverty: high taxes, bad economy, low paying jobs, and persecution.
- “poverty” is πτωχεία ptocheia {pto-khi'-ah} and means “destitute”.
  - ★ This word describes the widow's poverty that gave all that she had – 2 mites = less than ½ of a cent!!!
  - ★ This word is used for “beggar” in Luke 16:20.
- Christians do not wait until they have “enough” money, but they give despite their poverty – no matter how deep it is!

### **Christians Give Generously** (v. 2d)

- They may not have an abundance of wealth but they overflowed with generosity!

- They thought of others rather than themselves. They “received” Paul’s words in Philippians 2:3-4
- See 2 Corinthians 9:6

### **Christians Give Proportionately** (v. 3a)

- “For I bear witness” — Paul had first-hand experience in the giving of the Macedonians. He is not reporting what he heard, but what he saw and witnessed.
- They gave what they could.
- God does not expect all believers to give “**equally**” but He expects all Christians to give “**proportionally**”. *The more God blesses a person the more he gives.* (vv. 12-14; 1 Corinthians 16:2)

### **Christians Give Sacrificially** (v. 3b)

- “beyond their ability” – they gave what was **BEYOND reasonable**.
- They gave sacrificially. Again, they put other’s needs **before** their own!

### **Christians Give Freely** (v. 3c)

- The Macedonians did not have to be coerced or manipulated into giving.
- The Macedonians did not need someone to come and give an emotional appeal.
- They heard that their “Jewish” brothers and sisters in Jerusalem were suffering and that was enough for them to give, give freely, and give sacrificially.
- Christians do not give out of obligation. They give out of love for their Lord and the brethren.

### **Christians Beg to Give** (v. 4)

- “to beg” is δέομαι deomai {deh'-om-ah-ee} is a strong Greek word meaning “beseech”; “implore”; “beg”.
- “with much urgency” - adds to the intensity of the Macedonians’ strong desire to give.
- It is as if Paul or Titus were telling them not to give so much, but they would not listen and begged to give more!!
- “fellowship of ministering to the saints” – “fellowship” here means to “share in” – in the “ministering” here means “serving” the saints at Jerusalem.

## Christians Give As An Act of Worship (v. 5a)

- The Macedonian Secret to JOYFUL SACRIFICIAL GIVING:
  - ★ They gave themselves **FIRST** to the **LORD**.
  - ☆ (Romans 12:1-2) They offered their bodies as living sacrifices to the LORD, which is our **reasonable** service!!
  - ★ (Romans 6:13) They presented themselves to God as being alive from the dead, and the members of their bodies as instruments of righteousness.
  - ☆ **THEN** they gave themselves to **OTHERS!** (1 John 3:16; 4:11; John 15:12-13)
- Worship **begins** with offering ourselves to the LORD – wholeheartedly – NOT RELIGIOUSLY! (Romans 12:1)
- Worship **begins** with loving the LORD our God with **all** our hearts, with **all** our souls, and with **all** our minds. (Mathew 22:36)

## Christians Give in Submission to the Will of God (vv. 5b-6)

- The Macedonians had NEW HEARTS from God.
- Doing the will of God was/is what NEW HEARTS do!
- Christians live by the will of God and not their own wills. (John 4:34; Matthew 7:21-23; 12:50; Mark 3:5; Luke 11:28; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 5:15-17; 6:6; 1 Peter 4:2)
- When we confess with our mouths “Jesus is LORD” (Romans 10:9) we **submit** ourselves to **HIS** will.

## Giving Goes Along with Everything Else That A Christians Is

(v. 7)

- “abound” – remember 1 Corinthians 15:58.
- “faith” – trust in God. Faith always works. (James 2:14-26)
- “speech” – is *logos* – doctrine of truth.
- “knowledge” – understanding of truth.
- “all diligence” – “eagerness”; “earnestness” (See Romans 12:11)
- “love” – self-sacrificing love. (1 John 3:16; 4:10-11)

## Christians Give As An Expression of Their Love (v. 8)

- PROVE (show) your LOVE!
- ★ See 1 John 4:20-21; 1 John 3:16-18.

## What Must We Do

- ★ We must give!