

The Grace of Christian Giving 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15

BIG IDEA: Christians glorify God by loving one another through gracious and generous giving.

The Historical Setting

- Christian giving had been a foundational mindset and ministry of the church. (**Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 5:4; 6:1-7**)
- The church in Antioch gave relief to the church in Jerusalem during a time of great difficulty and famine. (**Acts 11:27-30; 12:25; Galatians 2:9-10**)
- The church in Philippi gave significant financial support to Paul (**Philippians 4:34-37**)
- The church is reminded to be sharing their goods with others believers (**Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:14-16**)
- The ongoing “Jerusalem Donation” and the churches in Macedonia and Achaia (that includes Corinth!) contributions for the church in Jerusalem (**1 Corinthians 15:58-6:4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Romans 15:25-28; Acts 24:17**)

Activity	Text	Date
The church in Antioch sends Barnabas and Paul to Judea with relief funds.	Acts 11:29–30; 12:25	c. A.D. 44–47
James, Cephas, and John encourage Paul to remember the poor, which he is eager to do.	Gal. 2:10	c. 44–47
Paul raises support for the Christians in Jerusalem while in Ephesus.	1 Cor. 16:1–4 (cf. note on Acts 20:4)	c. 53–55
Paul raises support for the Christians in Jerusalem while in Macedonia.	2 Corinthians 8–9	c. 55–56
Paul raises support for the Christians in Jerusalem while in Achaia.	Rom. 15:25–33 (cf. note on Acts 20:3)	Spring of 57
Paul is arrested when he arrives in Jerusalem to deliver the gift.	Acts 24:17 (cf. Acts 21:17–33)	Pentecost, 57

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<p>Corinthian Correspondence Timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul’s 1st visit to Corinth and the planting/establishing of the Corinthian Church (Acts 18:1-17) - Paul leaves for Palestine via Ephesus (Acts 18:18-22) - Paul returns to Ephesus on his 3rd Missionary Journey (Acts 19) - Paul’s 1st letter to Corinth (1 Cor. 1:11; 5:9—written from Ephesus) - The Corinthians write a letter to Paul with six questions (1 Cor. 7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1, 12) - Paul’s 2nd letter to Corinth (“1 Corinthians”; 1 Cor. 16:3-10) - Paul’s 2nd visit to Corinth is a “painful” visit (2 Cor. 2:1, 8-11; 7:12; 10-11; Acts 20:1-2) - Paul’s 3rd letter to Corinth (“A Severe Letter”; 2 Cor. 2:3-4, 12-13; 7:5-16) - Paul’s 4th letter to Corinth (“2 Corinthians”) - Paul’s 3rd visit to Corinth was in the works and seems to have taken place (2 Cor. 13:1-2; Romans 15:25-28)



Exposition: Part 1 (2 Corinthians 8:1-15)

Key Words and Themes:

- Grace
- Affliction
- Abundance/Wealth/Rich
- Poverty/Poor
- Given/Gave
- Earnestness/Readiness
- Love
- Desire/Desiring

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- I. Paul shares the example and burden of the “churches of Macedonia.” (8:1-5)
- II. Paul encourages the Corinthian believers to renew their desire to give towards the “Jerusalem Donation” by focusing on Gospel truths. (8:6-9)
- III. Paul encourages the Corinthian believers to consider the benefit of Christian giving and to not feel coerced by him into giving. (8:10-15)

OBSERVATIONS/QUESTIONS

IMPLICATIONS/APPLICATION

Exposition: Part 2 (2 Corinthians 8:16-9:15)

BIG IDEA: *Christians glorify God by loving one another through gracious and generous giving.*

- I. Paul commends the ministry team that came with Titus to Corinth when he brought them this letter ("*2 Corinthians*"). (8:16-24)

- II. Paul encourages the Corinthians to renew their eagerness in the ministry of generous and loving Christian giving. (9:1-5)

- III. Paul encourages the Corinthians to see the spiritual benefit that comes through Christian giving. (9:6-15)

OBSERVATIONS/QUESTIONS

IMPLICATIONS/APPLICATION

Seven Principles from an Extended Passage on Christian Giving
(2 Corinthians 8-9)

1. The **grace** of God is foundational to the Christian ministry of **grace-giving**.
(8:1, *4, 6, 7, 9, *16, 19; 9:8, 14, *15)

2. Grace-giving is never forced but is **expected** to be a **regular, free, generous delight** for Christian participation. **(8:4-8; 9:7)**

3. Glorifying God by **loving** one another is the focus of Christian grace-giving.
(8:7-8, 24; 9:7, 13)

4. Grace-giving reflects God's gracious and **uniquely personal** material blessings on **individual** Christians and Christian households. **(8:3, 12)**

5. Grace-giving is characterized by an **eager readiness in the hearts** of Christians to give. **(1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8:12; 9:1-5)**

6. Grace-giving will receive **God's gracious blessing** of continuing provision, both physically and spiritually, and individually and corporately.
(8:1-2; 9:6-15)

7. Christian grace-giving results in abundant **thanksgiving to God** in the hearts of Christ's Church. **(9:12-15)**

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