



Grace Giving

By Shannon Ford on May 3, 2021

TODAY'S READING: 2 Corinthians 8

The Macedonian churches were an example of grace giving churches (2 Corinthians 8:1-6). They gave themselves first to the Lord, then to those helping the needy in Jerusalem. Paul encouraged the Corinthians to follow their example and Christ's, who gave Himself and "became poor, that they through His poverty might become rich" (v. 9).

The Macedonian churches set the pace for other first-century churches. They gave not only what they were able, but even beyond their ability. These churches had experienced severe difficulties, and yet they gave generously. They had not simply gone through affliction; they had experienced a "severe test of affliction" (v. 2). Their difficult situation may have been caused in part by their Christian faith. They may have lost their jobs or been excluded from business and trade because of their belief in Christ. But their circumstances did not hinder them from giving. In fact, they gave joyfully and liberally!

When you have experienced the grace of God in your life, you will not use difficult circumstances of life as an excuse for not giving. The Macedonian churches needed no prompting or reminding to give. They viewed giving as a privilege. In verse 4, Paul says they were "begging" to participate. How many times have you heard a Christian beg for somebody to take an offering? They had experienced God's grace. God's grace not only frees us from our sins, but it frees us from ourselves. The grace of God will open your heart and your hand. Giving is not so much a financial issue but a Lordship issue. When you are surrendered to Him, you will give.

PRAYER: Lord, open our hearts and hands so we can give generously like the Macedonians. Let our love for You be seen in how much we love to give to You and others. Help us stand firm against the enemy who will always supply us with reasons to be selfish. Help us become generous grace givers who honor You with our giving. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: 2 Corinthians 9

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