

Questions

1. What is some of the background leading up to the writing of Second Corinthians?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-2. God's grace did not appear to alter the circumstances of the Macedonians (severe ordeal and extreme poverty). So, what did His grace do in them, and how does that help you think about times of hardship?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 8:8-9. List at least three ways that you have experienced God's love through His giving to you?
4. Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10. What are the risks that face those who desire to be rich?
5. Does giving feel like a chore or is it something that gives you joy?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1, and 2 Corinthians 8:3 and 12. What does it mean to give according to your ability or as you are prospered?
7. How does scripture guard against those who would use 2 Corinthians 9:6 to appeal to people's greed? What assurances do believers have concerning their giving from 9:8-12?
8. Read this quote, pray after you do, and consider how your heart is responding to what we've studied about giving:
"God not only graciously saved us through the Lord Jesus Christ, but completely changes us. He turns our cold, inwardly-curved hearts into generous, outwardly-flowing hearts that love other people. God doesn't want to haggle with us for a bit more of our time and money. He wants us to be new people." Tony Payne

For additional reading: *Act of Grace* (2019) by James C. Petty; *Redeeming Money* (2018) by Paul David Tripp; *Money, Debt, and Finances* (2021) by Jim Newheiser; and *Why Should I Give to My Church?* (2021) by Jamie Dunlop.

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

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Arise & Shine

Enriched to Be Generous

Various Scriptures

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2 Corinthians 8-9 provides one of the longest passages in the New Testament on generosity and giving. Within these chapters we see three motives for believers to be generous and sacrificial in giving, and four descriptions of *how* believers are to give.

Second Corinthians is at least the fourth letter Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth.

1. Paul's warning letter (1 Cor 5:9)
Their letter with questions (1 Cor 7:1)
2. First Corinthians
Paul's painful visit (2 Cor 2:1)
3. Paul's severe letter (2 Cor 2:4)
4. Second Corinthians

Three Motives for Believers to be Generous & Sacrificial in Our Giving to the Work of Ministry

1. God's gracious provision (2 Corinthians 8:1-2, 6-7)

2. Love for God and neighbor (2 Corinthians 8:8-9)

3. Freely (2 Corinthians 9:7)
"Each just as he decided for himself..."

3. The blessing of joy (2 Corinthians 8:1-2; cf. 1 Timothy 6:9-10)

4. Cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Four Words to Describe How Believers Give

1. Ability (1 Cor 16:1; 2 Cor 8:3, 12)

2. Generosity (2 Corinthians 9:6, 8-12)