THE GRACE OF GIVING

2 Corinthians 8:1-9
8:1) Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia
It Was Sacrificial

(8:1-2)² that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.
(vs. 3-4)³ For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,⁴ imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.
And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.
(Matt. 6:3-4) ³ But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.
2 Cor. 9:7; ⁷ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.
(8:5) Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.
II. THE EXAMPLE OF DIVINE GIVING

(8:9) 9 As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever."
1. Christ Giving Was Sacrificial

“...offered Himself without spot to God...” (Heb. 9:14).

(1 Tim. 3:16) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory