



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



# The Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians

## Chapter 8

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# Introduction

- St. Paul addresses in this chapter the collection for the needy Christians in Judea
- Despite the affliction and the poverty of the churches in Macedonia, their eagerness to participate resulted in great liberality (1-5)
- Having sent Titus to assist the Corinthians with their desire to give, St. Paul exhorts them not only by the example of the Macedonians but by the example of Jesus Christ (6-9)



# Introduction

- St. Paul reminds them of the principles that ought to govern their giving
- These principles involve willingness, ability, and equality (10-15)
- To do everything honorable, the collection is to be handled by three men, other than St. Paul, well known and proved in their service to the Lord
- The Corinthians should demonstrate the proof of their love that his boasting is not in vain (16-24)



# Excel in Giving (8:1-7)

- The mother church was in need and the abundance of the saints elsewhere was to be her supply
- Famine had stricken the land, this had been followed by troubles which led to the Jewish war and the result was destitution
- Distance does not diminish the claims of suffering brethren for help
- Churches of Macedonia: All Grecian countries north of Achaia



# Excel in Giving (8:1-7)

- Trial of affliction: implies persecution but was not used as an excuse for not giving
- The greater was the depth of their poverty, the greater was the abundance of their joy
- Their poverty had the effect, not of producing stinted gifts, but of "abounding in liberality"
- They gave not only up to, but even beyond their ability, which made their liberality so rich
- They were willing of themselves with no urging



# Excel in Giving (8:1-7)

- They insisted on doing more than the apostle felt that they ought to do
- They exceeded our hope: their liberality began in self-surrender to God and to the apostles as His agents in obedience to the will of God
- When Titus had gone to Corinth, he begun the collection which it commanded in 1 Cor 16:1
- St. Paul directs Titus to return and complete the collection before his arrival (Acts 20:1-3)





# Excel in Giving (8:1-7)

- This grace: the grace of giving
- In faith: In the full belief of the truth
- Speech: In the ability to instruct others
- Knowledge: The knowledge of God, and truth
- Diligence: readiness in doing of every duty
- Love to us: Manifested by the readiness with which you received our commands
- Character is not complete without giving



# Christ Our Pattern (8:8-15)

- The giving must be willingly to be blessed
- He encourages and testing their love by the example of the Macedonian churches
- The Lord's example is the biggest motive to give
- The Lord gave up all for us, He became poor that we might be rich in heavenly riches. If He gave Himself for us, what shall we give for Him?
- When we give, we do not lose but it is to our advantage





# Christ Our Pattern (8:8-15)

- As there was a readiness to will, let there be a performance by giving out of what you have
- The willing mind had been shown in the readiness to will which is essential to its acceptance
- God accepts the gift and measures it according to a man's means.
- I wish all to give according to what they have
- I do not mean to burden you that the saints at Jerusalem may be at ease



# Christ Our Pattern (8:8-15)

- There is a lack at Jerusalem; let your abundance supply it. So, too, if you be in want, they must supply it if they have abundance
- The church is an assembly of loving brethren
- Where one lacks, others should supply, that all may be equally provided
- So brotherly love is to effect such a distribution that no saint will be in want, and none have what is excessive (Exo 16:18)

# Collection for the Saints (8:16–24)



- Titus was ready to return to Corinth and help in the work, this was because of the grace of God
- Not only he readily accepted the work when St. Paul suggested it; but also out of his own accord he went to them
- He desired and chose it
- The scholars generally supposed this was St. Luke
- His praise is through all the churches for preaching and writing the gospel

# Collection for the Saints (8:16–24)



- He was appointed by the churches of Macedonia to carry their gift from Macedonia to Jerusalem
- To stir up your ready mind as well to make it manifest to others, how readily and freely you came into this service
- Lest some persons might charge that the apostle used the gifts of his own advantage, the messengers would report how funds were used

# Collection for the Saints (8:16–24)



- Taking care to act so as not only to be clear in the sight of God, but also to be clear in the sight of all men; avoiding even the appearance of evil
- The third person is probably Apollos
- Finding that I have the fullest confidence in your love to me, he engages in this service with enthusiasm, and exceeds even his former diligence
- If anyone asked, who is this Titus? he is my companion, and my fellow laborer to you

# Collection for the Saints (8:16–24)



- Should any inquire, Who are these brethren? They are apostles of the Churches promoting the glory of Christ
- Since these are delegates of the churches and of Christ, receive them warmly
- Give proof of your love, and show that when we have boasted of your excellencies that our boasting was not in vain which if happened will be negative reputation of the churches and St. Paul





# Conclusion

- What was the condition of the churches in Macedonia? Yet what did they have in abundance?
- What three things are said in how they gave?
- How did they go beyond St. Paul's expectations?
- Why did St. Paul send Titus?
- What two examples did St. Paul use motivate them to give?



# Conclusion

- What three guidelines does St. Paul give to govern their giving?
- What three men were sent to administer this collection?
- Why were these men handling the collection, and not St. Paul?
- What did St. Paul want the Corinthians to show to these men and the other churches?