

2 Corinthians 8

King James Version (KJV)

(Paul also used to collect the tithes from the people and send the money to Jerusalem. In this chapter, he is thanking the people for their generosity. He never kept a cent of that money for himself. He earned his living as a tent maker)

8 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

²How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

(Liberality = generosity – they tithed well to the “boys” in Jerusalem)
(A typical “church” – it’s always about money. I hate that – my opinion only)

My Opinion: (God’s Word is about the individual. Tithes should only be collected to support the church, not to enrich the priests. Any priest who earns more than his parishioners, through tithes, is a thief. Paul earned his living as a tent maker, not a church beggar)

³For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; (They gave voluntarily. Paul never begged, nor did he ever take a salary from teaching the Word of God)

⁴Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. (Paul was not comfortable taking tithes, but he did it for the church in Jerusalem. Yet they treated Paul like a second class citizen because he taught God’s Word to the Gentiles)

⁵And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

⁶Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. (The teaching of God’s Word)

⁷Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye

abound in this grace also. (The grace of God – it is a reward for their generosity in contributing tithes to the church)

⁸ I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. (God didn't command them to give tithes; but Paul accepted the tithes as a gift and sent the money to Jerusalem)

⁹ For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. (We will be rich in the afterlife)

¹⁰ And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago.

¹¹ Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. (Donations are voluntary, and up to the individual. God does not charge people money for salvation. Jesus paid the price for all people)

¹² For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. (If you cannot afford to give anything, then don't. God is not looking for your money)

¹³ For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: (Don't feel guilty if you can't give money to the church if you can't afford to. Don't let others try to make you feel guilty; like so many corrupt preachers do today)

¹⁴ But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: (Help each other financially if you can afford it. Don't do it under duress)

¹⁵ As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack. (If you're a believer in and a follower of God, you'll always have what you need. The example was the manna that the Israelites collected every morning in the desert) Exodus-16:18

¹⁶ But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you. (God worked great works for these people through Titus. He was a student of Paul)

¹⁷ For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you. (Titus volunteered to go teach these people)

¹⁸ And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches; (It is believed that this was Luke, who scribed the Gospel of Luke. He also served God as a scribe to Paul in all his epistles. Luke was a medical doctor by training. He was well educated)

¹⁹ And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind: (Open minds are ready to receive the truth in God's Word. Learning takes work on the part of the teacher and of the student)

²⁰ Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us: (Because they all earned their own living, they could not be accused of running a scam where they lived on the tithes)

²¹ Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men. (We know honest men by their deeds, not by their words)

²² And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which I have in you. (Titus has strengthened my faith in you. Because you learned well, and set your church in order by yourselves)

²³ Whether any do enquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellow helper concerning you: or our brethren be enquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ. (If anyone asks, Paul was giving Titus credentials. He's saying that they can trust Titus, Luke or others in Paul's group to teach the true Word of God)

²⁴Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf. (Paul was saying – make me proud of you)