**2 Corinthians 8**

*Paul calls upon the Corinthians to excel in giving, noting the Macedonian churches as examples. He calls them to be willing and abundant in their gift to the Judean saints, as an offering of love. (Synopsis by Stan Cox)*

1. Concerning the Collection for the Judean Saints **(8:1-9:15)**
2. Instructions Concerning Giving **(8:1-24)**
   1. Example of the Macedonians and Further Instruction **(8:1-15)**
      1. Despite their poor state, the Macedonians gave liberally **(vv. 1-2).**
         1. The grace of God was bestowed upon the churches of Macedonia **(v. 1).**
         2. Despite poverty and affliction, they were abundantly joyed, and gave liberally **(v. 2).**
      2. Their giving observed **(vv. 3-5).**
         1. Gave beyond their ability **(v. 3a).**
         2. Gave willingly **(v. 3b).**
         3. Implored Paul to receive their gift and fellowship in the work **(v. 4).**
         4. Gave beyond Paul’s expectations, to the Lord, and to Paul **(v. 5).**
      3. Exhortation for the Corinthians to abound in the same grace **(vv. 6-7).**
         1. Titus sent to complete the grace in them **(v. 6).**
         2. Exhortation to abound in this area in addition to the other areas **(v. 7).**
      4. Exhortation to be motivated by other examples **(vv. 8-9).**
         1. He is testing their sincerity by the example of others **(v. 8).**
         2. The example of the Lord Jesus Christ **(v. 9).**
      5. Exhortation to complete what they started **(vv. 10-12).**
         1. It is to their advantage to complete it **(v. 10).**
         2. Just as there was a readiness to desire it, there must be a completion of it out of what they have **(v. 11).**
         3. The giving must be willingly, and according to what one has **(v. 12).**
      6. Exhortation to give so there will be equality **(vv. 13-15).**
         1. Paul does not desire their burden to the ease of others **(v. 13).**
         2. He desires equality – that their abundance would supply for another’s lack, and vice versa **(v. 14).**
         3. **Exodus 16:18** used as an example of equality **(v. 15).**
   2. Commendation of Messengers **(8:16-24)**
      1. Titus **(vv. 16-17).**
         1. Titus has earnest care for the Corinthians **(v. 16).**
         2. He not only went because of exhortation, but of his own accord **(v. 17).**
      2. The brother whose praise is in the gospel **(vv. 18-21).**
         1. Not named, but his praise is known throughout the churches **(v. 18).**
         2. Chosen by the churches to travel with Paul, so that there would be no question about Paul’s handling of the funds **(vv. 19-21).**
      3. The brother often proved diligent **(v. 22).**
         1. Not mentioned by name, but well proven **(v. 22a).**
         2. He was very diligent in this matter because of Paul’s confidence in the Corinthians **(v. 22b).**
      4. Summary about the three men **(vv. 23-24).**
         1. Titus is Paul’s partner and fellow worker **(v. 23a).**
         2. The other two are messengers of the churches **(v. 23b).**
         3. Exhortation for the Corinthians to prove their love, and the boasting on their behalf to the messengers **(v. 24).**

**Questions**

1. How did the Macedonians give themselves to the Lord in this work **(v. 5)?**
2. What does Paul mean by, *“that there may be equality”* **(vv. 13-15)?**