

May 1, 2022
II Corinthians 8:1-15
“The Privilege Of Giving”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” **Matthew 6:21** NIV.

The Macedonians lived in accordance to God’s will. Their actions revealed their love and devotion to God and to others.

Entirely of their own initiative, they got involved in the collection for the saints. They actually pleaded for the privilege of sharing.

They gave gladly, freely, joyfully, not out of a sense of duty. They gave out of their poverty because they had confidence that the Lord would supply all of their needs.

Paul begins with an example, not a plea. In Macedonia, destitute Christians were giving generously. They did so by God’s grace. It wasn’t about the size of the gift, it was about the attitude of their hearts, they even gave sacrificially and willingly.

Paul knew that if he had to coerce the promised offering out of the Corinthians it was worthless for them personally. To give freely would be a show of genuineness of love for the Lord, for him (Paul), and all believers. This was designed to arouse them to action.

Giving is a privilege, not an obligation.

“Stewardship with integrity involves people giving not from outward coercion, but from inward devotion.” *MacArthur*

Paul did not want a hasty collection on the day he arrived, he wanted them to carry out what they themselves had started, a well thought out, carried out, collection to help fellow believers they had never even met.

In giving to God the amount given is not the issue, it is the attitude of the heart.

Paul wanted those who had more than they needed to help others who did not have enough. This is the mark of a genuine believer. This was not a Marxist egalitarian economic system being suggested, just a suggestion to help those less fortunate. No goal was set to make one poor in order to make the other rich.

Paul’s ultimate example of giving was that of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Application:

Examine your giving to the Lord. Do you give out of a sense of obligation, or, do you see giving as a privilege? Do you rob God as is described in the book of Malachi? Do you give like the Macedonians did, their actions revealed their love and devotion to God and to others. Examine what your giving reveals about your love and devotion to God and others. Do you eagerly give to God of your own initiative? When you give do you do so selflessly trusting God to meet your needs as you give to others? You cannot outgive God!

“In everything I showed you that by working hard in this way you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (**Acts 20:35** NASB)