

# Grace Giving

## 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

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God's Word calls us to be intentional about giving, because of the ongoing work of God's grace in our lives.

Book Recommendation: *The Treasure Principle* (Revised & Updated) by Randy Alcorn (2017)

Paul preached the gospel in Corinth (Acts 18) and wrote 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians to the new believers there, which included instructions about giving (1 Corinthians 16). At some time after that, false teachers slandered Paul and did their best to turn the Corinthian believers away from him. Consequently, he wrote a severe letter (not in Scripture) that Titus brought to Corinth, and that paved the way for reconciliation and for the writing of 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians.

### **1. The Motivation for Grace Giving: (8:1)**

### **2. The Manner of Grace Giving (8:2-5)**

Joyous (8:2)

Generous (8:2)

Unselfish (8:3-4)

Free (8:3)

Focused (8:5)

### 3. The Mandate for Grace Giving (8:6-7)

#### Questions to Consider

1. If you listened to last week's sermon, have you done anything over the past week to be more intentional about your prayer life?
2. Prior to 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, Paul wrote 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians and a severe letter that is not part of Scripture. What can we glean from and about those prior letters, as well as the historical circumstances, to help us better understand this teaching about giving?
3. Are there any New Testament verses that give us a glimpse into the ethnic divide between Jews and Gentiles in the First Century?
4. What phrase governs the teaching about giving in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8, and why is it so important?
5. Think about the practical application to your giving of the words joyous, generous, unselfish, free, and focused.
6. What is the Bible's teaching about giving God the firstfruits, and how does that apply to our giving today?
7. In the context of 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8, what does it mean that the Macedonians "gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us."