

TRUSTING GOD

GENEROSITY for GENERATIONS

“...see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”
Malachi 3:10

NOVEMBER 20, 2022

READ

We are continuing our series on biblical stewardship and generosity. This week, we are in 2 Corinthians 8:1-7. Read this passage and ask the Lord to use this time of discussion.

EXAMINE

- In reading this passage, we see that Paul describes the generosity of neighboring churches as “the grace of God,” or as an “act of grace.” Why is it important that Paul describes generosity in this way?
- Reading verses 1-4, what do we learn about the churches of Macedonia, their financial state, and their heart posture toward giving?
 - Why is the Macedonian’s joy and zeal for generosity significant that Paul needed to emphasize it multiple times?
 - What is the relationship between heart posture/attitude and giving, according to these first four verses?
- In verse 5, we see that the Macedonians not only gave their money in generosity, but that they also dedicated themselves to Christ and to serving the saints. How did their generosity contribute to their growth in faith?
- In verse 6, Paul then shifts from Macedonia’s “acts of grace” to calling Corinth to complete the offering with their generosity. Considering that the Corinthians were not in extreme poverty or affliction like the Macedonians were, how should the testimony of the Macedonians inspire the Corinthians in their generosity?
- In verse 7, how does Paul describe the relationship between generosity and spirituality of the Christian life?

APPLY

- Consider a testimony you’ve experienced or heard of in regards to generosity; how did you see God move in that situation?
- Consider the Macedonians’ abundant joy and strong desire to give, even in the midst of extreme poverty. How should this testimony teach us on how we should approach giving and generosity?
- As a Christ-follower striving to excel in faith, speech, and knowledge, how can you strive to also excel in “acts of grace” through generosity in your current situation?

PRAY

Give thanks to God for giving us His Son and His kingdom to us with abundant joy and ask Him to help you grow in joy and zeal for generosity.

NOTES

NOVEMBER 20, 2022