

Study 8

Read 2 Corinthians Chapter 8

SUMMARY

At this point Paul addresses an issue that occupied much of his interest during his missionary journeys: the collection for the needy Christians in Judea (cf. Ga 2:9-10; Ro 15:25-28; 1 Co 16:1-2). In this letter, two entire chapters are devoted to the subject.

He begins by mentioning the churches in Macedonia. Despite a great trial of affliction and their own deep poverty, their abundance of joy and eagerness to participate in this ministry resulted in great liberality (1-5).

Having sent Titus to assist the Corinthians in carrying through with their own desire to give, Paul exhorts them not only by the example of the Macedonians but by the example of Jesus Christ (6-9). Since it is to their advantage that they complete what they began a year earlier, Paul reminds them of the principles that ought to govern their giving. These principles involve willingness, ability, and equality (10-15).

In an effort to do everything honorable in the sight of others, the collection is to be handled by three men other than Paul. Titus is one, but the other two men are unnamed. However, they are well known and proven in their service to the Lord. Paul encourages the Corinthians to demonstrate to these men and to all the churches the proof of their love in this collection and that Paul's boasting about the church in Corinth was not in vain (16-24).

Questions:

- 1) How does Paul address the Corinthians in Ch. 8? (II Corinthians 8:1)

- 2) Whose grace does Paul wish the Corinthians to know about in Ch.8? (II Corinthians 8:1)

- 3) On who had God's grace been bestowed in Ch.8? (II Corinthians 8:1)

- 4) What trial did the Churches in Macedonia suffer? (II Corinthians 8:2)

- 5) In spite of great affliction suffered by the churches in Macedonia what emotion did they feel? (II Corinthians 8:2)

- 6) Tell what was deep in the churches in Macedonia? (II Corinthians 8:2)

7) Unto what riches did the poverty in the churches in Macedonia abound? (II Corinthians 8:2)

8) Who gave willing and beyond their power for the poor saints in Jerusalem? (II Corinthians 8:1-5)

9) Who began the work of making a collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem? (II Corinthians 8:6)

10) What had the churches in Macedonia given before they gave to the saints in Jerusalem? (II Corinthians 8:5)

11) Who abounded in faith, utterance, knowledge, in diligence and love? (II Corinthians 8:7)

12) Paul did not command the Corinthians to give to the poor saints in Jerusalem but since others were giving to them what did Paul wish to prove by the Corinthians giving also? (II Corinthians 8:8)

13) According to Paul who had been rich and become poor so that the Corinthians might be rich? (II Corinthians 8:9)

14) How long had the Corinthians a readiness of mind to give to the poor saints at Jerusalem? (II Corinthians 8:10)

15) What is not necessary to add to their readiness? (II Corinthians 8:11)

16) What must be first before a gift is accepted according to that a man hath? (II Corinthians 8:12)

17) Paul instructed the saints at Corinth to give from their abundance to the poor in Jerusalem so that there might be what? (II Corinthians 8:14)

18) Finish this quote, “He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no _____.” (II Corinthians 8:15)

19) What was a brother chosen by Paul and the churches “to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us _____.”? (II Corinthians 8:18-22)

20) In whose sight must honest things be provided? (II Corinthians 8:21)

21) What had been proved about the brother sent with Titus? (II Corinthians 8:22)

22) What had increased the brother’s diligence? (II Corinthians 8:22)

23) State the standing Titus had with Paul. (II Corinthians 8:23)

24) What use did Paul make of the brethren with him? (II Corinthians 8:23)

25) What were the Corinthians to show Titus and the messengers of the churches? (II Corinthians 8:24)

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

2) What was the condition of the churches in Macedonia? Yet what did they have in abundance? (2)

- 3) What three things are said in how they gave? (3-4)
- 4) How did they go beyond Paul's expectations? (5)
- 5) Why did Paul send Titus? (6)
- 6) What two examples did Paul use motivate them to give? (8-9)
- 7) What three guidelines does Paul give to govern their giving? (12-14)
- 8) What three men were sent to administer this collection? (16,18,22)
- 9) Why were these men handling the collection, and not Paul? (20-21)
- 10) What did Paul want the Corinthians to show to these men and the other churches? (24)