

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

NT Survey Lesson 137—2 Corinthians 8

Introduction: In this chapter Paul begins a new topic. Now confident that his relationship with the Corinthians is restored, he urges them to complete their previous pledge to help the needy saints in Jerusalem.

Lesson aim: To discover the principles that affect our giving to the Lord's work.

Paul describes to the Corinthians the generous response of the Macedonians in supporting the needy saints in Jerusalem—2 Cor. 8:1-5

1. To what did Paul attribute the wonderful response of the Macedonians toward the work of helping the needy in Jerusalem? (v. 1)
2. How did Paul describe the generosity of the Macedonians? (v. 2) Explain what Paul meant by this.
3. Describe how the Macedonians gave (v. 3-4).
4. Had Paul expected the Macedonians to give so liberally in view of their deep poverty? (v. 5) What factor enable the them to do so?

Paul encourages the Corinthians to complete the work (of collecting for the saints) they had begun earlier—2 Cor. 8:6-15

1. Who had first presented the idea of helping the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem to the Corinthians? (v. 6) Who would now finish it?
2. In what things did the Corinthians abound? In view of this, what did Paul urge them to do? (v. 7)
3. Was Paul ordering the Corinthians to make this gift? (v. 8) Instead what appeal did he make?

4. How had the Lord demonstrated his grace toward the Corinthians (and others)? (v. 9)
5. What had the Corinthians been the first to do? (v. 10)
6. Whatever the Corinthians gave was to be according to what? (v. 11)
Were they expected to give what they were not able to give?
7. Was the purpose of the gift to afflict some (like the Corinthians) so as to make it easy on others (the Jerusalem saints)? (v. 13) What word best describes what the contribution was to achieve?
8. In what way were the Corinthians experiencing the abundance of the Jerusalem saints? (v. 14) In what way were the Jerusalem saints going to experience the abundance of the various Gentile churches? What would be the result? What O.T. episode expressed this concept?

Paul urges the Corinthians to cooperate with the men who will come to encourage them in completing the work—2 Cor. 8:16-24

1. Who, of his own accord, was coming to Corinth to encourage the brethren? (v. 16-17)
2. Who else was going to accompany him? (v. 18) Who might this be? What had the church appointed him to do?
3. What precautions did Paul and his companions want to take in administering this gift to the needy? (v. 20) What did this cause them to do? (v. 21)
4. How did Paul describe the third brother to accompany Titus? (v. 22)
The brethren traveling with Titus were called what? (v. 23)
5. What did Paul urge the Corinthians to do when these men arrived? (v. 24)