



Life Group Sermon Study Notes

“Grace is All it Takes”

October 19th, 2025

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

What’s a small act of kindness someone once did for you that you still remember?

Have you ever received a gift that meant more because of the thought behind it than the actual cost?

When did you figure out the daylight savings time adjustment on your own (When to move up an hour and when to move back an hour)?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.kingdomchurchmemphis.org

2 Corinthians 8:1–9 (ESV)

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all

earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

What does this text teach us about God? About us?

The apostle Paul writes this second letter to the Corinthian church in part to unify this church with him in ministry. Because doubt concerning his apostleship had arisen on account of his suffering, Paul needed to defend his apostleship and ministry by pointing the Corinthian church to Christ's faithfulness and strength in his suffering. Paul also encourages the Corinthian church in its holiness and addresses its generosity. As we will explore, Paul deals directly with what should and should not motivate our generosity by pointing to the example of the Macedonian church, from where he is writing.

In our text Paul informs us of how God's grace, not circumstance, should motivate our giving. In our time, generosity is taught to be the result of abundance, but God teaches us that generosity is first an act of grace as a response to God's grace toward us in Jesus. The Macedonian church embodied this truth well. Neither their difficulty nor humble means inhibited their joy or generosity toward the kingdom of God. If their example was not enough Paul points to Jesus as the ultimate exemplar of generosity. His life, death, and resurrection are the greatest displays of generosity anyone could give and experience. Jesus sacrificed the glories of heaven and humbled himself to take on the form of a servant so that we could become heirs with him to the inheritance of the kingdom of God. When we put our trust in Jesus and receive his grace, we are freed and empowered to show off God's love and grace through our generosity to others.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Our passage says that the Macedonian church *gave* according to and beyond their *means* and they *gave themselves*. Why is grace significant in both of these acts?

What is the difference between proportional, sacrificial, and free will giving? At which one are you strongest? Weakest?

According to our passage, how are fellowship, "taking part," and ministry, "relief," significant in our generosity?

Application

How has experiencing God's grace transformed how you give?

How does having generous people within the local church impact the life of the local church?

How does being generous connect with our pursuit to be [CHRIST-CENTERED](#)?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

Pray to encounter God's grace in Jesus in a fresh way.

Pray for growth to be generous regardless of circumstance.