

## The Life and Letters of Paul

### 2 Corinthians 8

1. As Paul finishes the previous chapter (7) we see how he speak highly of the church and how the boasting on the report of Titus, ending it with “I have complete confidence in you”. Confidence in what is the real question?

2 Corinthians 7:16/2 Corinthians 8:1/Ephesians 2:10-created to do good works/Hebrews 13:21-God equips us to do his will.

2. How many of us are challenged by our generosity to others because we believe we do not have enough or we are in a rough season of life right now.

2 Corinthians 8:2/Acts 18:17beaten in front of a crowd (many troubles)

3. When we take our calamity and trials out of the high place and put our faith in God, we are not only able to persevere but also be a blessing when it looks like we have nothing.

2 Corinthians 8:3-5/Romans 12:1-3-Give you body and your mind, God will reveal his will

4. Paul reminds the church that when they started giving was a vital part of the ministry, they had become a very gifted church (faith, speaking, knowledge and enthusiasm all being spiritual gift but needed to get back to supporting Jerusalem churches.

2 Corinthians 8:6-7/Hebrews 11:6-faith is where it starts/

5. Paul did not want to make the church give, instead he challenged them to come alongside what was happening in the giving from other churches. Have you ever felt you were made to do something and how did that affect you?

2 Corinthians 8:8/Proverbs 19:17- giving is like giving to the Lord/ Deuteronomy 15:10-not just give from your heart but from a good heart.

6. Here Paul uses Jesus as the example of what generosity looks like in giving of oneself to meet the greater need.

2 Corinthians 8:9/John 10:18-Jesus was not compelled he gave freely himself/ 1 John 3:16- he laid his life down/ John 17:5- Gave up his position with the Father

7. Many times, we are better at starting a thing than we are at finishing a thing.

2 Corinthians 8:10-11/Galatians 6:9- we tend to get tired in doing good/ Ecclesiastes 7:8- the end is better than the beginning /Nehemiah 6:15-16- when work is completed it is noticed.

8. Paul wanted the church to be wise in giving, not to the point where it hindered the work, they were doing and that the giving of today would come back when they were in need.

2 Corinthians 8:12-15/Mark 12:41-44- an example of giving out simply because the need was there

9. Paul is excited about the visit from Titus and an unnamed brother that was a great preacher of the gospel that would accompany himself with the contribution given.

2 Corinthians 8:16-22/Titus 1:4- how Paul view Titus/

10. Paul did not hold back when he boasted of the Corinthian church and wanted to make sure all the people he sent would also see the good reputation that he spoke of.

2 Corinthians 8:22-24/John 13:20- receive the one I send/ Hebrews 13:2- don't neglect to show hospitality to strangers/ 1 Peter 4:9-show hospitality