

Principles on Giving from 2 Corinthians 8 - 9

An Inductive Bible Study
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Introduction. Apparently Paul circulated among the Gentile Christians in the Mediterranean world and urged them to take up a collection for the poverty-stricken Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. 2 Corinthians 8-9 details his “sales tactics.” Let us examine them.

A. Paul gives a glowing report of the Macedonian Christians’ example in giving. 2 Cor. 8:1-5

1. What was, apparently, the driving force behind the Macedonians’ giving? 8:1 (Macedonia is a province in northern Greece. The Corinthians lived in southern Greece in a province called Achaia.)
2. What negative factors might have deterred the Macedonians from giving? 8:2
3. Can you identify 3 characteristics of the Macedonians’ giving in 8:3?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. What was their tactic in 8:4?
5. What sort of commitment was in evidence in 8:5?

B. Why had Paul sent Titus to the Corinthians? 2 Cor. 8:6

C. Paul urges the Corinthians to excel in making a contribution to the saints. 2 Cor. 8:7-15

1. What kind of compliments did Paul give the Corinthian Christians? 8:7a
2. What does he urge them to do? 8:7b
3. Paul is pretty tactful in 8:8
 - a. What is he *not* doing to them?

- b. How *is* he trying to motivate them?
 4. How does he appeal to the example of Christ? 8:9
 5. What compliment does he give the Corinthians in 8:10?
 6. What does he urge them to do in 8:11?
 7. What principle in giving can you make from 8:12?
 8. What principle does he set forth in 8:13-14?
 9. What Scripture does he quote by way of an OT precedent? 8:15
- D. Apparently Paul sent Titus and two other unnamed assistants to help in collecting an offering from the Corinthians. 2 Cor. 8:16-24**
 1. What ethical concerns did Paul have in collecting this offering? 8:20-21
 2. Paul apparently refers to a third, unnamed brother in 8:22. Why was this brother trustworthy?
 3. What kind of credentials do these three men have to qualify in this matter? 8:23
 4. What concluding appeal does Paul make in this section? 8:24
- E. Paul does not want these Corinthians to be ashamed because they are unprepared if he visits them with some Macedonians. 2 Cor. 9:1-5**
 1. How has he boasted to the Macedonians (northern Greece) about the willingness of the Achaians (southern Greece, including Corinth) in the matter of giving? 9:1-2
 2. Why had he sent these three brothers? 9:3-4
 3. What was he planning for these three brothers to do? 9:5
- F. Paul gives some important principles in giving. 2 Cor. 9:6-15**
 1. What two principles does he give in 9:6?
 - a. Negative:

- b. Positive:
2. What two principles does he give in 9:7?
 - a. Positive:
 - b. Negative:
 - c. What does God love?
3. What is God able to do? 9:8?
4. What Scripture does he cite as proof of his point in 9:8? 9:9
5. What prediction does Paul make in 9:10?
6. What does he add in 9:11?
7. What two benefits will come from their giving to the poor saints? 9:12
 - a.
 - b.
8. Why will the Jerusalem saints glorify God? 9:13
9. What effect will the Corinthians' giving have upon the attitude of the Jerusalem Christians toward the Corinthians? 9:14
10. How does Paul end this section on giving? 9:15

G. What are your own personal thoughts about giving from these two chapters?

1. (Does Paul ever mention "tithing" as a motivation in giving? What do you make of that?)
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.