

2 Corinthians 8:1-7 | An Act of Grace

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches in 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.

The Gospel Creates Generous Hearts

- The gospel provides redemption in every part of our life;
- The gospel compels generosity, not out of law, but grace;
- The gospel points us back to our source of generosity: The Lord Jesus Christ;

Three Ways To Cultivate Gospel-Centered Generosity

1. Consecration (vv. 5)

- Consecration involves giving ourselves fully to Jesus;

2. Example (vv. 1-2)

- Humility, wisdom, and insight from others help to grow us in our spiritual maturity;

3. Repetition (vv. 7)

- Cultivating new habits because of God dwelling in us is the work and result of transformation.

Benediction | Matthew 6:19-21

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.