

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

2 Corinthians 8 & 9

Lesson 10

One of the major ministries of Paul's third missionary journey was the taking up of an offering for the poor Christians in Judea. Apparently, the Corinthians were not doing their part. They had good intentions and made promises accordingly, but had failed to keep them. 2 Corinthians 8 & 9 contain Paul's exhortation to them about giving. May we also receive his message and be encouraged to be *cheerful givers*.

DAY ONE: Read 2 Corinthians 8 & 9

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. 2 Corinthians 8 & 9 been divided into five paragraph divisions. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Chapter 8

Verses 1-7

Verses 8-15

Verses 16-24

Chapter 9

Verses 1-5

Verses 6-15

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet. Now record a title for both chapters 8 & 9 of 2 Corinthians.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus

New to this lesson: *abound/abundance, grace, rich/enriched, poor/poverty, gift*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Corinthians 8 & 9. Remember, as you mark the key words to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers to them - only those that you feel are significant.

3. Choose one of the key words above and make a list of what the text reveals about it.

Challenge: Make a list of another key word

4. The term of conclusion *therefore* appears in 2 Corinthians 8:24 and 9:5. Choose one of them and record what the conclusion was based upon.

DAY TWO: Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

1. In seeking to encourage the Corinthians regarding the offering to the Christians in Judea, Paul used the Christians in Macedonia as an example. Scan verses 1-5 and describe what you learn about them.
 - a. What did you learn from their example?
2. The Christians in Macedonia did more than Paul had *hoped*. What did they do in addition to giving money? Verse 5
 - a. What does Romans 12:1 say about this?
 - b. Paul was not only blessed because they *gave themselves to the Lord*, but also because they *gave themselves to Paul* and those he was with. In what ways do you think they might have done this?

3. 2 Corinthians 8:6 tells us that Paul urged Titus to urge the Corinthians to complete their offering as did the Christians in Macedonia. The church of Corinth was known as a gifted church. According to verse 7, what did they *abound in*?
 - a. How is giving financially a fruit of God working in a person's life?

DAY THREE: Read 2 Corinthians 8:8-9

1. Paul told the Corinthians in verse 8 that rather than *speaking by commandment*, he was *testing the sincerity of their love* by using the example of the Macedonian Christians. He used another example in verse 9. Who did he use?
 - a. What did Paul write about Jesus in this verse?
 - 1.) What are some examples of how Jesus *for our sakes became poor*? (Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer)
 - 2.) How has Jesus made you *rich*?
 - 3.) Why should Jesus' example inspire us to give?

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Corinthians 8:10-24

1. According to 2 Corinthians 8:10, how long ago did the Corinthians agree to this offering?
 - a. What does verse 11 say about their willingness to give in the beginning?
 - 1.) Why is it important to complete what we say we will do?

2. If you are really eager to give, it isn't important how much you are able to give. God wants you to give what you have, not what you don't have (2 Corinthians 8:12 NLT). How does Mark 12:42-44 confirm this?
 - a. What do Exodus 25:2 and 35:21 tell us about what is important to the Lord regarding our giving?
3. What is **not** the objective of giving? 2 Corinthians 8:13
 - a. Rather, what is the objective? 2 Corinthians 8:14
4. 2 Corinthians 8:15 quotes Exodus 16:18, which refers to God's instructions to the Israelites regarding the gathering of the manna. What was His instruction in Exodus 16:16?

Challenge: How does this apply to the gathering of material goods today and how does it not apply?

5. Paul was thankful for Titus' shared enthusiasm. Paul was also sending another *brother* to help in receiving and delivering the offering. Why? verses 20 and 21
 - a. Even though a minister's conscience is clear and he is behaving uprightly, why is it important to behave in a way that there is no doubt on the part of other believers?

DAY FIVE: Read 2 Corinthians 9

1. Although Paul was *boasting* about the *willingness* of the believers in Corinth, what was his concern? verses 3 and 4
 - a. What did Paul do to avert this? verse 5
2. What promise did Paul quote in verse 6?

a. What do the following verses say about this truth?

Psalm 41:1-3

Proverbs 11:24

Luke 6:38

b. Why do you think it is easier for some to believe God can save them and get them to heaven, than to believe He will bless their financial giving?

3. What is our attitude to be in giving? 2 Corinthians 9:7

a. Describe a person who gives:

1.) *grudgingly* or *of necessity*

2.) *cheerfully*

b. Money is money. Why does giving in a *grudgingly* manner make any difference if the need is met?

4. Scan 2 Corinthians 9:12-14 and describe the reaction of the recipients to gifts given to *supply their needs*.

5. Write 2 Corinthians 9:15.

a. What is this *gift* according to John 3:16?

1.) Describe this *indescribable gift*.

DAY SIX: Review 2 Corinthians 8 & 9

1. How can the example of the Macedonia church challenge those who have little money to give?
2. How are you challenged by Paul's exhortations to give generously?
3. How should a Christian determine how much God wants her to give and what ministries she should support?
4. What can you do to guard against giving *grudgingly*?
5. What motivates you to give?

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

- Hebrews 13:16 NIV