



HOW AMAZING IS GRACE! 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

No. 3672

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Paul's teaching to the Corinthians about supporting the Jerusalem church was much more than fund raising—it was all about the amazing power of grace to make people different.

I. An Explanation of Grace.

- A. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 8:9
 - 1. The Lord Jesus Christ modeled grace—"love in action."
 - 2. Exchanging His riches for our poverty.
 - 3. So we might exchange our poverty for His riches.
- B. The grace that God gives. 2 Corinthians 9:8
 - 1. Grace is appropriated by faith. Ephesians 2:8-10
 - 2. Those whom grace graces are graced in order to become gracious.
 - 3. For this to happen God continues to grace people:
 - a. Abundantly. b. Continuously. c. Sufficiently. d. Practically.

II. An Experience of Grace.

- A. The grace God gave the Macedonian churches. vv. 1-5
 - 1. Their "most severe trial"—earthquake, flooding, persecution, occupation.
 - 2. Their "rock bottom" poverty.
 - 3. Their irrepressible joy. Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:6
 - 4. Their "rich generosity."
 - a. They gave as much as they could—and "beyond their ability."
 - b. They took the initiative "entirely on their own."
 - c. They "urgently pleaded with us for the privilege."
 - 5. Their understanding of grace—"in keeping with God's will."
 - a. This was more than feeling sorry for people having a hard time.
 - b. This was "**charis**," "**koinonia**," "**diakonia**," "**agioi**."
 - c. Prompted by grace, an act of worship, sharing, with God's people.
 - d. They "gave themselves to the Lord" and committed to His cause.

III. An Expression of Grace.

- A. The reminder God gave the Achaian church. vv. 6-15
 - 1. The gifted church needed to "excel in the grace of giving."
 - 2. They ought to allow grace to reach their pocketbooks.
 - 3. They needed to go beyond being moved by need.
 - 4. They should follow through on their initial response.
 - 5. They should grasp the ramifications of the grace of giving. 9:12-15
- B. The response God expected from the Achaian church. 9:6-7
 - 1. Decisive.
 - 2. Heartfelt.
 - 3. Generous.
 - 4. Cheerful.
 - 5. Ungrudging.