

To Seek & To Save Through Giving (II Corinthians 8:1-9)

INTRODUCTION: The ministry of the Apostle Paul encompassed many unique and challenging objectives. He was the human instrument of the Holy Spirit in giving us many books of the Bible. He was a bold preacher; a powerful soul winner; an intense church planter; a constant exhorter of the early church. Our text this morning shows us that the Apostle Paul was also involved in taking up special offerings for special occasions for the many needs of the early church. Perhaps there were in the first century, as there are today with some people, a negative connotation with a special offering. Paul would run the risk of being misunderstood. But nevertheless he determined to challenge God's people to meet the need of the early church.

“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

I. GRACE GIVING IS SACRIFICIAL. (8:1-4)

- A. THEY SACRIFICED BY FAITH (8:3)
 - B. THEY SACRIFICED ENTHUSIASTICALLY (8:4)
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II. GRACE GIVING IS SINCERE.

- A. THEY HAD SURRENDERED THEMSELVES FIRST. (8:5)
 - B. THEY WERE PROVING THEIR LOVE (8:7-8)
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III. GRACE GIVING IS SUBSTITUTIONAL.

- A. HE GAVE PERSONALLY
 - B. HE GAVE WILLINGLY (8:11-12)
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