

# UNDERSTANDING GRACE GIVING

## (A Missions Message)

**TEXT:** 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

**INTRODUCTION:** God's grace is His unmerited favor to us. He manifests this in more ways than just salvation. Peter spoke of the "*manifold grace of God*" (1 Pet. 4:10). God's grace is many-sided. It is like a multifaceted jewel.

One area where God reveals His grace to us is **giving**. The churches of Macedonia (Thessalonica, Philippi, and Berea) are held up before us as models of "grace giving." We need to examine how they gave, what they gave, and for what purpose they gave it. If Paul wanted the church at Corinth to know of this grace, surely God wants us to know also.

**OUTLINE:** Paul shared enough information with the Corinthians that they could imitate the Macedonians in grace giving and experience God's blessings also.

- I. **The PROPORTION of Grace Giving** ("*beyond their power*")
  - A. Sacrificial giving
  - B. Faith giving
  
- II. **The PRE-REQUISITE for Grace Giving** ("*first gave their own selves*")
  - A. To the Lord (Rom. 12:1,2)
  - B. To His servants (Gal. 6:10)
  
- III. **The PURPOSE for Grace Giving** (Phil. 4:10-19; 2 Cor. 10:15b-16a)
  - A. Benevolence (1 Cor. 16:1-4; Rom. 15:25-27)
  - B. Missions (Phil. 4:15)
  
- IV. **The PATTERN for Grace Giving** (Christ – v. 9)
  - A. He impoverished Himself.
  - B. He enriched others.

**CONCLUSION:** This kind of giving proves our **love** (v. 8). "You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving." What was the secret to the Macedonians' giving? Was it a spirit of philanthropy or unusual empathy with the plight of their suffering brethren? No, it was the **grace of God** operating in their hearts. God still bestows this grace today.

