

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 28, 2024

Passage: 2 Cor 8:1–9:15

Memory Passage: 2 Corinthians 9:6–8

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom 15:25–32, 1 Cor 16:1–4, and Gal 2:9–10.** Explain the context of 2 Cor 8 & 9 from these passages.

(b) **Read 2 Cor 8:1–9:15.** Identify the major units of thought in these two chapters (you should find four or five) and write a one-sentence description of the content of each.

(c) What repeated words, phrases, or ideas do you observe throughout chapters 8 and 9?

(d) What is the Main Idea of chapters 8–9 (in one sentence, summarize the total content of the different units of thought)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Cor 8:1–6.** What is the “grace of God” given to the Macedonian churches (Thessalonica, Philippi, Berea), and why does Paul “want (them) to know about” it (8:1)?

(b) What does “a severe test of affliction” refer to (for context, see 1 Thess 1:6; 2:14–16; Acts 17:1–15)?

(c) How does Paul describe the Macedonian churches’ giving (I found six characteristics) in 8:2–6? How are they connected?

(d) The Greek word translated “grace” (χάρις, charis) is found ten times in these chapters (also translated as “thanks” and “favor”). Find each occurrence and explain how this word holds all the teachings of these chapters together.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Cor 8:7-24.** How was Christ rich and then poor (v. 9), and how does Christ’s poverty make the Corinthians rich?

(b) Describe the principle Paul uses in 8:10–15 to encourage the Corinthians to finish what they started. Why doesn’t he command them to finish collecting this gift?

(c) What is important about Titus’s and the other two brothers’ characters in this offering (8:16–24), and what is Paul’s purpose in involving them?

(d) How does 8:16–24 inform the way churches today should handle finances? Does this happen at BCC? Explain.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read 2 Cor 9:1-15.** Explain how Paul continues to encourage the Corinthians to finish what they started (9:1–5).
- (b) Sometimes, the author’s main idea is clear: “The point is this ...” (9:6). What is Paul’s point?
- (c) Paul explains the principle in vs. 7–10. Write down everything that God does (or is able to do) and everything the Corinthians do (or will be able to do). What is the relationship between the two lists?
- (d) What results flow to the generous giver and to God in 9:11–15? What is God’s “inexpressible gift?”

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read 2 Cor 9:6-15.** How does your giving (including, but not limited to, finances) compare with the characteristics of the Macedonian churches’ giving found in 2 Cor 8:1–6 (FYI: I found these characteristics—Unconditional [vs. 1–2]; Proportional [v. 3a]; Sacrificial [v. 3b]; Voluntary [v. 2c]; Enthusiastic [v. 4]; and Obedient [v. 5])? In what ways will you work to align your stewardship with these characteristics better?
- (b) What decisions have you made in your heart regarding your material and time resources? What does giving look like when it neglects the principles found in 2 Cor 9:6 (i.e., when giving is reluctant, under compulsion, and complaining)? Is your giving ever done in these ways? How will you change so that you can receive the grace from God promised here?
- (c) What does selfishness with your resources reveal about your walk with Jesus (see v. 9, 13, Ps 112, quoted in v. 9)?
- (d) Write down all the reasons found in 2 Cor 8:1–9:15 that you should become a more cheerful grace-giver.

DATE: April 28, 2024

PASSAGE: 2 Cor 8:1–9:15

Reaping and Sowing