

## The Giving Christian

Chapters 8 and 9 of 2 Corinthians comprise the essence of giving for the New Testament Christian. In these chapters we find inspiring examples and important teachings that should help us understand giving, and shape our own attitudes and efforts in giving. Here are just a few of the important lessons we learn in these chapters:

**You don't have to be rich to give:** Paul was blown away by the willingness to give when he came to Macedonia. While the brethren there were in "extreme poverty," they still wanted to help, and gave generously. This served as an example to the Corinthians, and should serve as an example to us today!

**When giving, remember Jesus:** When we don't feel like giving, remember Jesus. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." (2 Cor. 8:9)

**God loves a cheerful giver:** Like everything in Christianity, giving is not just a task or ritual. While giving itself is important (and commanded), our attitude is just as important!



### Questions

1. How does Paul describe the trouble he faced in Asia? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was Paul looking for in Troas? \_\_\_\_\_
3. "Therefore do not lose heart. Even though the \_\_\_\_\_ man is perishing, yet the \_\_\_\_\_ is being renewed day by day." (NKJV)
4. What is Paul referring to when he speaks of "...our earthly house, this tent"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. In what ways do you think a Christian can be "unequally yoked" to unbelievers \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did the Macedonians give? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Christ became \_\_\_\_\_ that we might become \_\_\_\_\_.
8. How should we give? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How many times did Paul ask that his "thorn in the flesh" be taken away?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## "That You May Grow Thereby..."

*A weekly Bible reading plan*



### 2 Corinthians 1-13

#### An Apostle's Defense

#### Overview

As we begin the final quarter of this year, we turn back to the New Testament epistles. Earlier in the year we read First Corinthians. This week we will read "the sequel." Paul's first letter had been direct and rebuked many problems that were present at Corinth. While Corinth may have been plagued with problems, Paul loved them and wanted the best for them. Sometime after sending the first letter, Paul left Ephesus and travelled to Troas, then on to Macedonia in search of Titus and news concerning the Corinthians. To Paul's great joy, Titus informed him that most of the congregation had listened to Paul's teaching. There were, however, some that still opposed Paul, and even if they were a minority their slanderous accusations were deceptive and dangerous. This group questioned Paul's very apostleship, and attempted to cast doubt on his intentions, abilities, and character. Thus Paul penned another letter to the Christians in Corinth, likely within a year of his previous letter. In an emotional letter unlike most of Paul's other writings, he would encourage the faithful majority, defend his apostleship and the gospel, and seek to give his opponents a final opportunity to change before he visited Corinth again in person.

#### Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: 2 Corinthians 1-3

Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 4-6

Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 7-8

Thursday: 2 Corinthians 9-11

Friday: 2 Corinthians 12-13

In 1 Corinthians, Paul emphasized the power of "Jesus Christ and him crucified." It should be no surprise then that Christ is presented regularly throughout 2 Corinthians. Paul reminds Christians that Jesus is our:

<i>Comfort</i> .....	1:5
<i>Triumph</i> .....	2:14
<i>Lord</i> .....	4:5
<i>Light</i> .....	4:6
<i>Judge</i> .....	5:10
<i>Reconciliation</i> .....	5:19
<i>Substitute</i> .....	5:21
<i>Gift</i> .....	9:15
<i>Owner</i> .....	10:7
<i>Power</i> .....	12:9

### Outline of 2 Corinthians

#### I. Paul's Apostolic Ministry (1-7)

*Introduction (1:1-11)*

*Reason for Paul's Changed Plans (1:12-2:13)*

*Philosophy of Ministry (2:14-6:10)*

*Exhortation to the Corinthians (6:11-7:16)*

#### II. The Collection for the Judean Saints (8-9)

*The Macedonian's Example (8:1-6)*

*Exhortation Concerning Giving (8:7-9:15)*

#### III. Paul and His Accusers (10-13)

*Paul Answers His Accusers (10:1-18)*

*Paul Defends His Apostleship (11:1-12:13)*

*Paul's Impending Visit (12:14-13:10)*

*Conclusion (13:11-14)*

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