

## 2 Corinthians 8

11-14-12

### *Put your money where your mouth WAS!*

#### I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

A. David & Mari (Chuck) Cisneros - 26 yr old Daughter (Alaina) was struck by a vehicle last night.

#### II. **Intro:**

A. Slide#2 Chapter 8&9 both deal w/the offering Paul was taking for the needy believers in Judea.

1. **Why Judea?** Remember the 1st believers were in that region & were Jews. They would have been victims of *social & economic ostracism, religious excommunication, and national disinheritance*. Any business ventures would have, collapsed. Family ties, severed.

a) Same reason we have such a heart for the downtrodden. (IDP's in Burma; widows & orphans in Ukraine w/Mercy Projects; young Vietnamese trafficking victims in Svay Pak, Cambodia)

2. The Corinthian church **said** they would share in the collection, **but** had been *negligent* in **doing** so.

a) Paul reminds them of their **promise** & teaches them a couple **great principles** on giving.

B. **Title:** *Put your money where your mouth WAS!*

1. Slide#3 **Outline:** Give it Liberally; Finish it Thoroughly; Administrate it Honorably.

#### III. Slide#4 **GIVE IT LIBERALLY! (1-9)**

A. Jesus has a lot to say about Stewardship.

1. 1/3 of Jesus parables deal w/stewardship! [Time, Talents, & Treasures]

B. Slide#5 **Mac & Cheese** (1)

C. Macedonia was not a city but a region that basically covered all of Greece.

1. Some cities that are included then in this region are: *Philippi, Thessalonica, & Berea* to name a few.

2. I think God was smiling on this area of "Mac"...thus Mac & Cheese :)

D. Slide#6 **The Poor Model** (2)

E. You'd think the money would come in from the **wealthy** churches, that could easily afford to give, **but** that was not the case w/Macedonia!

1. They were **physically** afflicted & **financially** washed-out!

2. **Historical Background:** “The Romans had taken all there **silver & gold** mines, taxed the **copper & iron** smelting, *canceled the right to cut trees* for ship & home building, & had fought several **wars** on Macedonian soil.”<sup>1</sup>
3. Through their great trials **they still gave** w/an abundance of joy!
4. With their *deep poverty* they still **abounded** in the riches of their liberality!

F. **Slide#7 Free Willy** (3)

- G. So did Paul have to tell them “if you don’t give, my ministry was going to go off the air?” - **No**, no prompt or pressure came from Paul to them? They were **freely willing!**
1. This (GK) word is **only** used here & in vs.17 (translated *of his own accord*)
  2. **Not only did they not have to beg** the churches in Macedonia to give, the opposite was true...check out vs.4!

H. **Slide#8 Please take my Wallet** (4)

- I. The churches in Macedonia begged (**imploring**) Paul to take their money!
1. George Sweeting said, “For the Macedonian Christians, giving was not a **chore** but a **challenge**, not a **burden** but a **blessing**. Giving was not something to be **avoided** but a **privilege** to be **desired**.”

J. **Slide#9 It all starts here!** (5)

1. **When you give yourself totally over to *the Lord***, you’re offering your “time, talents, & treasures” [lock, stock, & barrel; the whole 9 yards; the whole enchilada!]
  - a) After a great gathering of Christian youth, the offering was being counted. At the bottom of the offering, the counters found **a picture of a teenage girl**. They all made the same immediate assumption. *Some boy had taken a girl's wallet, taken out the picture and thrown it in the offering basket as a practical joke. Then someone turned the picture over. There was something written on the back. "I have nothing to give, but I give myself."*
2. May it be said in the end of “CM” (Calvary Murrieta) that, “*They were like the 1st century CM* (Churches o Macedonia)!”
3. **If you have an open heart, you’ll have an open hand!**
4. Be assured...**If you have a problem giving with a *tight fist*...your problem is deeper than your wallet!**

K. **Slide#10 Starting strong, but fizzling fast!** (6)

- L. Paul now touches on the issue he has w/the Corinthian church...that they had *started strong, but fizzled fast*.

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<sup>1</sup> Chuck Swindoll, Pg.3,4.

1. They needed to **complete** what they **started**!
2. Unlike the Macedonian churches that were in deep poverty, the Corinthian church was **flourishing**. They had the ability.

M. **Slide#11 Thrive!** (7)

N. Paul says you guys **abound**/thrive in so many things!

1. **Yet**, you're **out of balance**! (Like the churches in Revelation)
  - a) See, **one loose spoke can throw a whole wheel off!**
2. Not one of these is a **substitute** for the grace of giving!
3. Their "**abounding**" didn't carry over to their "**giving**"!
4. **How balanced is your giving?**
  - a) *Are you as committed to **giving** as you are to *bible study, prayer, worship*?*
5. **Would it be fair to say that where your checkbook(treasure) is, there your heart will be also?**
  - a) Our checkbook, or ATM bank statement, does seem to reveal our true walk w/God. Because our checkbook announces what our **treasures are**.
  - b) **What if we did a little checkup?** What if I asked you right now to pull out your check books. **Then** pass it to your neighbor next to you (someone that doesn't know you). **Then** have them scan down just the months of Oct/Nov. **What would they glean from your life?**
    - (1) **Anything you'd be embarrassed by?**
    - (2) **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

O. **Slide#12 Don't be misunderstanding!** (8)

P. Don't misunderstand what I'm saying!

1. I'm not **demandin**, just **remindin**!
2. So he **reminds** them of one who was far richer than them, that was truly a giver.
  - a) **Yet be cautious how you test someone's sincerity!**
  - b) **Story** - Charles Spurgeon and his wife would sell, but refused to give away, the eggs their chickens laid. Even close relatives were told, "**You may have them if you pay for them.**" As a result some people labeled the Spurgeon's greedy and grasping. They accepted the criticisms without defending themselves, and only after Mrs. Spurgeon died was the full story revealed: **All the profits from the sale of eggs went to support two elderly widows.** Because the Spurgeon's were unwilling to let their left hand know what the right hand was doing (Matt. 6:3), they endured the attacks in silence.

Q. **Note**, Paul used **2 examples** for Corinth:

1. **1st**, from the **deep poverty** end of the scale.

2. **2nd**, from the **richest of rich** side, whom far exceeds any *Fortune 500 guy*, any *Oil owning Sheik...Jesus!*

R. **Slide#13 Jesus, Rich - Poor - Rich** (9)

S. Jesus is the wealthiest person in the entire universe, **for** it is all His!

1. Job 41:11 **Everything under heaven is Mine** (*the Fathers*).
  - a) **I thought you said it was all Jesus?** Well, Jn.3:35 says, **The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.**
2. Yet He, **emptied** Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
  - a) The Macedonians were **poor**, **but** they **gave** like they were **rich!**
  - b) Jesus was **rich**, **but** He **lived** like He was **poor!**
    - (1) **Both provided a great example of giving.**

T. **Though He was rich** – It is usually the **poor**, who help the **poor**, because they know their plight.

1. **Haven't we all seen or heard of a need someone had and you purposed to do it, but once out of sight you just shrugged it off?**
  - a) Helping a homeless person. (*I'm going to swing in at the next light & get them something to eat & bring it back to them. Oh, darn I couldn't get over in the turn lane...I guess God didn't want me to help them!*)
  - b) **I'm going to sponsor that child/family.** Get home & the burden changes.
2. I put it this way, **He who was very rich, became very poor; so the spiritually poor, could become spiritually rich!**

#### IV. **Slide#14 FINISH IT THOROUGHLY! (10-15)**

A. **Slide#15 Just do it!** (10,11) - **Complete** what you've begun!

1. **How many don't complete their financial commitments?**
2. **I wonder if I asked Jeff Thompson of Mercy Projects, or GFA, just how many people that sign up to sponsor a child, a family, or a cause...end up sticking with it?**
  - a) Now, there might be a good reason for someone to stop (I'm not ruling that out) **but** I wonder how many make commitments **w/o counting the costs**, **or** did it out of **emotions**, **or** felt committed to it **in church**, **but** not as committed to it when it came to **writing out the checks**, w/the bills sitting in front of them?

B. **Slide#16 Willing?** (12)

C. God Judges not according to what a man has **not** the opportunity to do, **but** according to what he **does** when he has it, **and** what he would do **if** he had it!

1. Widows mite. Mark 12:44(NIV) **They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on.**

D. **Slide#17 Rob Peter to pay Paul!** (13-14)

E. He wasn't trying to rob Peter to pay Paul!

F. **Slide#18 God is the great equalizer!** (15)

G. From **Ex.16:18** referring to the *manna* in the wilderness.

1. **God is the great equalizer.** Right now, the church down in Jerusalem needs help from the Corinthians, and maybe one day their sandal would be on the other foot.

## V. **Slide#19 ADMINISTRATE IT HONORABLY! (16-24)**

A. **Slide#20a** This last section Paul deals with *2 important things* when it comes to church finances!  
1] Good-quality People 2] High-quality accounting practices!

1. **How many church workers have lost their testimony because of misuse of funds, or carelessness in handling the Lord's money?**
2. Their key is leave no opportunity for accusations! (we need to protect all of those working w/our finances)

B. **The church is not a business, yet we need to run it in a businesslike manner.**

1. **Good-quality People!**

a) Paul appointed 3 men. Titus & 2 other unnamed brothers.

b) **Listen to their credentials!**

- (1) Titus had **earnest care** (16); a willing heart/**of his own accord** (17);  
One of the other brothers was **chosen by the churches** (19); **diligent** (22);  
**partner & fellow worker** (23); & **a glory to Christ** (23b).

2. **Slide#20b High-quality Accounting Practices!**

a) Here at CM, Mike Nielsen oversees our financial department; Bill Johnson is our CPA; Heidy is our accounting manager; Candy Escalante takes care of our receivables; 3 to 4 men, that have been chosen by our board, collect & count the offerings (min.of 3, usually 4).

b) **And ultimately as president of the board 100% accountability rests upon me & our board! ...And we don't take that responsibility lightly.**

(1) **Accountability #1** - It is **your** money we are investing in Gods Kingdom & we better always be wise & careful stewards!

(2) **Accountability #2** - God is watching how we spend **His** money!

C. **Slide#21** (24) Paul closes by saying "show your love"... "prove it"! - **"Put your money where your mouth was!"**

D. **End:** When we come to the end of life, the question will be,  
"How much have you **given**?" **Not**, "How much have you **gotten**?"