

CBMBC Sermon Outline

15 March 2015

Sermon 2 -- THE EXAMPLE OF GIVING

(The Macedonian Churches)

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

What is an example for?

1. Their example is for Celebration.

They gave congregationally, v. 1. "Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit (that is, to know) of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia."

"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen," Eph. 3:21.

They gave sacrificially, v. 2. "How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality."

* "Trial" = purging. * "Affliction" = pain. * "Poverty" = abject poverty.

They gave amazingly, v. 3a. "For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power..."

"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee," 1 Chron. 29:14.

They gave willingly, v. 3b. "They were willing of themselves.

They gave urgently, v. 4. "Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints."

They gave personally, v. 5a. "And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves..."

They gave spiritually, v. 5b. "But first give their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."

2. Their example is for Motivation.

This motivation should... ..convict us if we are not giving like we can and should. ...constrain us to keep giving throughout all the days of our lives....comfort us in considering even if we can only give a little, little is much when God is in it!

3. Their example is for Celebration.

2 Corinthians 9. 2,4; 2 Corinthians 9:15 "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

Romans 6:23, Romans 8:32, Philipians 4:19

The example of the Macedonians is not about a great people, but about a people who knew a great God!