



## Today's Message

Date: May 26, 2019  
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas  
Title: ***Generosity for the Sake of the Gospel***

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1–6 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup>for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup>For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, <sup>4</sup>begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— <sup>5</sup>and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. <sup>6</sup>Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace.

Introduction: In the eighth chapter of 2 Corinthians, Paul launches a discussion of an offering he collected as aid for suffering believers in Jerusalem. In today's sermon text, Paul holds forth the Macedonian churches as examples of generosity fueled by devotion to the advance of the Gospel of Christ.

### **I. Churches in Macedonia set an example of gracious giving. 1-2**

- A. They gave by God's grace.
- B. They gave with overflowing generosity.

- C. They gave joyfully instead of offering excuses.
  - 1. They were generous despite persecution.
  - 2. They were generous despite poverty.

**II. Churches in Macedonia gave more generously than Paul anticipated. 3, 5a**

- A. They gave proportionately.
- B. They gave sacrificially.

**III. Churches in Macedonia considered it a privilege to give. 4-5**

They considered it a privilege to:

- A. Advance the Gospel.
- B. Serve as a steward of the Lord.
- C. Partner with the Lord's servants.

**IV. Churches in Macedonia encouraged others in the work of the Lord. 6**

**Today's take-home truth: God puts his grace on display when churches give generously for the sake of the Gospel.**