

CHAPTER 32.12
My People
in this ***City***

“GIVEN TO GIVE”
2 Corinthians 8-9
June 3, 2018

You’ve been given to give.

- I. Giving is Worship (8:1-9)
 - A. It starts and ends with God as the Giver. (8:1; 9:15)
 - B. God’s grace produces abundant joy which overflows in generosity. (8:1-2)
 - C. Generous living begins with worship. (8:5)
 - D. Genuine love gives. (8:8-9)
- II. Thinking about it doesn’t count without doing it. (8:10-15)
 - A. Readiness needs action to complete it. (8:11)
 - B. Give out of what you have. (12)
 - C. Results in fairness where none have too much and none have too little. (13-15)
- III. The church must be above reproach financially. (8:16-24)
- IV. Give willingly, generously, and cheerfully. (9:1-7)
 - A. God loves it when you give this way. (7)
 - B. Giving is expected! But the manner is important. (7)
 - C. Reap as you sow. Not a formula for getting rich. (6)
- V. You’ve been given so that you can give! (9:8-15)
 - A. The All Sufficient One gives to us so that we can give. (8-11)
 - B. Giving is the overflow of a thankful heart. (12-14)

How does this apply to me?

NEXT WEEK

“POWER IN WEAKNESS”
2 Corinthians 10 - 13

Passage Overview:

In these last chapters, Paul defends his position and role in the life of the church in Corinth as the apostle God used to establish the church there. False leaders had come into the church while Paul was away, claiming that only they had the complete gospel. These were impressive individuals who had a real ‘wow’ factor. In many ways Paul seemed weak and ineffective in comparison. But their additions and perversions of the gospel were not the good news at all.

Paul accepts the perception of weakness in him and claims that it is through this ‘weakness’ that Jesus is most evident. Although he could lay claim to great feats and accomplishments, he would rather make much of Christ through his weakness.

While these other ‘super-apostles’ used the believers for their own benefit and profit, Paul willingly spent himself for them. He not only served them without any remuneration, in stark contrast to these false apostles, but he joyfully expended his energies and his very life for their sakes.

As you read, notice Paul’s use of the concept of weakness which makes much of Christ’s power. Effectiveness of service to the Lord is not measured in terms of eloquence, influence peddling, or an impressive leadership portfolio. It is measured by our submission to Christ, so that His power is made perfect in our weakness.

Look at your own life. Be honest about your weaknesses. But don’t let those weaknesses keep you from serving the Lord. Trust God to make His power evident and complete in and through your weaknesses as you serve Him.

Reading for Next Week: 2 Corinthians 10 - 13