The Grace of Giving





¹And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own,

4they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

⁶So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part.

⁷But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

*I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others.

⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.



1: God's Grace Enables His People to be Givers (vs 1 & 5)

¹And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

¹⁰Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever.

"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.

¹²Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

¹³And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

¹⁴"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

2: God's Grace Enables His People to Joyfully Give (vs 2)

²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

Psalm 4:7 (ESV)

⁷You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

Jeremiah 2:13 (ESV)

13 for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Hebrews 10:34 (ESV)

³⁴For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.

3: God's Grace Enables His People to Give Generously, Willingly, & Sacrificially (vss 3, 4)

³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own,

4they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Acts 20:35 (ESV)

35In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

⁷But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

