

KAILUA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
“The Grace of Giving” – II Corinthians 8:1-5
Pastor Rick Bartosik
November 13, 2022

Scripture reference II Corinthians 8:1-5

The Collection for the Lord’s People

8 And 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.

INTRODUCTION – Romans 12:1

I. Historical Background to II Corinthians 8-9 – the longest passage in the Bible on giving

II. Principles on Christian Giving from II Cor. 8:1-5

1. Giving is an act of grace (v.1)

Generous giving is just the overflow of a heart transformed by the grace of God.

2. Giving is not necessarily connected to income (v.2)

“Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.”

3. Giving is not necessarily connected to positive circumstances (v.3)

The Macedonian believers gave because their hearts were FULLY COMMITTED TO CHRIST. Out of their love for the LORD they gave “as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.”

4. If we give grudgingly the problem is probably not a lack of money (v.4)

Our real problem—the one we all struggle with—is that we are wedded to the world.

That’s why Jesus said it is difficult for the rich to enter the Kingdom of heaven (Matthew 19:23).

5. We cannot give FREELY until our hearts are given FULLY to the Lord (v.5)

The money part is just the afterglow of a heart set free

The Treasure Principles (From the book, The Treasure Principle, by Randy Alcorn)

Key #1 – God owns everything. I am His money manager.

Key#2 – My heart goes where I put my money.

Key#3 – Heaven, not earth, is my home.

Key#4 – I should live not for the dot (life on earth) but for the line (life in heaven)

Key#5 – Giving is the only antidote to materialism