

# 2 Corinthians 8:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

## Analysis

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**Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia**—Paul uses *charis* (χάρις, 'grace') to describe the Macedonian generosity, a striking theological move that recasts giving not as human virtue but as divine enablement. The phrase *gnōrizomen hymin* ('we make known to you') introduces a paradigm: the desperately poor churches of Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea became models of sacrificial giving. Paul grounds Christian generosity in *charis* received, not prosperity achieved.

The Macedonians had experienced God's grace in salvation (justification), and that grace overflowed into financial generosity for the Jerusalem saints. This establishes the pattern for 2 Corinthians 8-9: giving is not primarily ethical duty but the fruit of experienced grace. When believers truly grasp their spiritual wealth in Christ, material wealth becomes a tool for kingdom purposes, not an end in itself.

## Historical Context

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Written circa AD 56 from Macedonia, this letter addressed tensions in Corinth while organizing the Jerusalem collection—a relief offering for impoverished Jewish Christians experiencing famine (Acts 11:27-30, Romans 15:25-27). The Macedonian churches (Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea) had themselves suffered persecution and poverty (Acts 16-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:14), making their generosity all the more remarkable.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does viewing generosity as 'grace' rather than obligation transform your attitude toward giving?
2. What evidence of God's grace in your life should naturally overflow into generosity toward others?
3. How do the Macedonian churches challenge modern prosperity gospel assumptions about God's blessing?

## Interlinear Text

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Γνωρίζομεν	δὲ	ὑμῖν	ἀδελφοί	τὴν	χάριν	τοῦ	θεοῦ
to wit	Moreover	you	brethren	G3588	of the grace	G3588	of God
G1107	G1161	G5213	G80		G5485		G2316

τὴν	δεδομένην	ἐν	ταῖς	ἐκκλησίαις	τῆς	Μακεδονίας
G3588	bestowed	on	G3588	the churches	G3588	of Macedonia
	G1325	G1722		G1577		G3109

## Additional Cross-References

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**Colossians 1:29** (Parallel theme): Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

**Acts 16:9** (Parallel theme): And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

**1 Corinthians 15:10** (Grace): But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

**1 Thessalonians 4:10** (Parallel theme): And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

**Acts 11:23** (Grace): Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

**Ephesians 3:8** (Grace): Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

**Romans 15:26** (Parallel theme): For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

**2 Corinthians 9:2** (Parallel theme): For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.