

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

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

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

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

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

Γνωρίζομεν	δὲ	ὑμῖν	ἀδελφοί	τὴν	χάριν	τοῦ	θεοῦ
to wit G1107	Moreover G1161	you G5213	brethren G80	G3588	of the grace G5485	G3588	of God G2316
τὴν	δεδομένην	ἐν	ταῖς	ἐκκλησίαις	τῆς	Μακεδονίας	
G3588	bestowed G1325	on G1722	G3588	the churches G1577	G3588	of Macedonia G3109	

Additional Cross-References

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.