

Surrey Chapel Connect Groups – 27th & 28th April 2016
ONE GIFT | 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-24 & 9:6-15

GET THINKING:

The context of the passage is that a financial collection is being made from different churches to support the Christians in Jerusalem – what Paul calls a “contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem” in Romans 15:26.

Giving financially to support the work of the gospel is an important feature of Christian life, but we often approach it with a range of different motives.

How many different motives for giving (both good and less good!) can you think of?

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-24 & 9:6-15

1. THE SPIRIT OF GIVING (8:1-15)

- Paul uses the Macedonian Christians as examples of great givers. **Scan over 8:1-7 again, looking for ideas about how Christians should give. What do you find most challenging here?**
- Paul is dealing with a delicate problem that many pastors still face today: a congregation behind on their giving! Study the following verses and discuss...
 - What strategy is Paul using in each?
 - How appropriate are these for us today?

Verse 7

Verse 8

Verses
10-11

Verses
13-15

2. THE REASON FOR GIVING

As well as giving them the example of the Macedonian givers, Paul points the Corinthians to the greatest giver in Christ.

- **Re-read vs 1-9. Which verses show us Paul’s belief that our giving is motivated by God’s grace to us in Jesus? (Look forward to 2 Corinthians 9:14-15 too!)**
- **Focus on v 9.**
 - In what sense what Jesus ‘rich’, and how did he ‘become poor’? (See also Philippians 2:6-8)
 - How might knowing this impact on our giving?

3. THE RESULTS OF GIVING (8:16-24 & 9:6-15)

- **REPUTATION? Read 8:16-24.**
 - What is Paul concerned about in v20? What steps does he take to give people confidence that the gift is used properly?
 - Is this still an issue for us today? What features of our giving at Surrey Chapel help this to happen?
- **REWARD? Read 9:6-10. What is surprising about these verses?**
 - It could be argued Paul is endorsing a ‘prosperity gospel’ here, where obedience leads to material ‘health and wealth’ as a reward from God. **But look carefully at the rewards Paul says are promised in v8 and v10 – how does God really bless a cheerful giver?**
- **What other results of giving can you spot in vs 6-15? How can this encourage us?**

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CLOSING THOUGHT:

Our motive for giving: pray through 2 Corinthians 9:14-15!

PRAYER:

Prayers from the passage | Prayers for your group | Prayers for our church