

*The glory of Christ* (II Corinthians 8:23):

To those who would raise the question, Paul presents these men as *the glory of Christ*, men in whose ministry the light of the Gospel shines out (cf. 3:4-11; 4:4,6; 8:19; 9:13). They are men who are “a credit to Christ” (Bruce). <sup>1</sup>

These traveling together, not only brought integrity to the offerings, but each one could report back to their own Churches.

3. In II Corinthians 8:24, Paul appealed to the Corinthian believers to shew to Titus and the messengers *proof* of 2 things. What are they?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Vol. 8, p. 584.

EIGHTH STUDY

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THE COLLECTION FOR OTHER CHRISTIANS  
LIBERALITY SHOWN BY MACEDONIAN  
CHURCHES (II Corinthians 8:1-5)

Paul begins to share with the Corinthian believers how the Macedonian Churches gave out of their little (out of their need), while trusting God, as their source, to provide for them (II Corinthians 8:2).

Paul didn't want to take it because he knew they were in need also; but they insisted. They wanted to be a part in fellowship with Paul and the others in ministering to the saints (II Corinthians 8:4).

TITUS SENT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JERUSALEM CHURCH (II Corinthians 8:6-15)

Paul sent Titus to receive offerings from the Corinthian Churches for the Jerusalem Church

1. Although the Corinthian believers abounded in everything, in faith, in utterance, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in their love toward Paul and the rest, there was something else (another grace) in which Paul wanted them to be generous. What was it? (II Corinthians 8:6-8) \_\_\_\_\_

2. In II Corinthians 8:9, Paul makes a statement about Jesus Christ. Explain it in your own words. (see Luke 9:58) \_\_\_\_\_

“Last year,” Paul says to the Corinthian believers, “You were aggressive in your commitment to give; now, go ahead and perform what you were so eager to do (II Corinthians 8:10,11). Give out of what you have, for you are not expected to give what you don’t possess (II Corinthians 8:11,12; see Mark 12:43-44). I am not trying to put upon you a burden, and other men be eased (II Corinthians 8:13). You have now, in your possession, an abundance to supply their need, so that when you need it, it will be supplied to you, that there may be equality (II Corinthians 8:14).

The **equality** has as its object “the relief of want, not an artificial equalization of property.” <sup>1</sup>

**Want**, in the original Greek, means poverty; that which was lacking.

1. To what do you think II Corinthians 8:15 is referring where it says, “*He that gathered much had nothing over?*” \_\_\_\_\_

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*He that gathered much had nothing over* (II Corinthians 8:15). You can make a lot of money, but if you are not a giver, it will be to no avail. It will rot; it will; stink (Exodus 16:20; see 15); it will disappear (Ref. Matthew 25:31-46). If we don’t give we will have lack. Without seed, there will be no harvest. All of it goes back to the principle of sowing and

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1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Vol. 8, p. 581.

reaping (Galatians 6:7).

*And he that had gathered little had no lack* (II Corinthians 8:15) God will take our little, and make it amount to much. We will always have what we need when we give and share with those in need. Not only will we have what we need, will have abundantly above all we can hope or think.

RECOMMENDATION OF TITUS AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES (II Corinthians 8:16-24)

Along with Titus, was sent two other brothers of which one was already famous in the work of *the Gospel throughout all the Churches* and the other *chosen* by the Churches to travel with them with the gift, which Paul calls *grace*, so that it will not only be protected, but that it would get to its right destination (II Corinthians 8:16-22).

We are not sure who the two brothers were, but one scholar believes the one famous in the Churches could possibly be Luke, because Luke was honored by the Churches in this way. Another scholar believes the two to be Barnabas and Silas.

This offering was not only a monetary gift, but it was spiritually motivated.

1. What title does Paul give Titus in II Corinthians 8:23? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. What does Paul call the other *brethren* in that same verse? \_\_\_\_\_
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