



19 APRIL 2026 AM

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

**SACRIFICE**

= something of value given up  
for the sake of something else

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**Romans 12:1-2**

## INTRODUCTION

- in the Old Testament, we have several examples of people being offered up for God's use...by other people in their lives

**Isaac** was offered up by Abraham

**Sampson** was dedicated as a Nazirite by his parents

**Samuel** was dedicated to the Temple by his mother, Hannah

**Jephthah** made a rash vow unto the Lord and his daughter paid the price for it

- but in the New Testament, we are expected to offer ourselves up as a living sacrifice

**Romans 12:1-2**

we should be cautioned...much like those in the Old Testament, a living sacrifice has the tendency to walk off of the altar

- this morning, the context is the same as last week's message:

Paul was collecting an offering for the saints who were suffering in Jerusalem

he had mentioned this a year earlier to the church at Corinth, but now they were needing to be motivated once again **8:10**

- Paul would use several different words to describe this offering he was collecting:

**ministry, fellowship, debt, fruit,**

- but the word he used repeatedly concerning this offering was **GRACE** (*charis*)

### **2 Corinthians 9:7-8**

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

- while in the context of giving to a financial offering, Paul encourages the church beyond money...they should be giving themselves to the work of God

when we understand the grace we have received from God, then giving ourselves and our finances will flow naturally from that

### **2 Corinthians 8:8**

I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

**this morning, Paul gives us two examples to consider in light of our own giving**

# 1. AN EXAMPLE TO IMITATE vs 9

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Paul says 'we know' about the grace of Jesus... we are familiar with His birth, His childhood in the home of Joseph, His public ministry, and to a greater extent, His death, burial, and resurrection from the dead

but the problem is we don't often consider all of this information in light of what we should be doing as a result of it

we have no idea just how rich Christ was before He was born in Bethlehem:

streets of gold, pearly gates,  
throne of God

universal power and control, empires

likewise, we have no idea just how poor He became in his human existence

poverty of Mary and Joseph

no place to lay His head

even a borrowed tomb

NOTE: try to imagine someone coming into your life, taking your place, and giving you all the benefits

Paul says Christ did all of this so we might be made rich

riches of His grace

Ephesians 1:7

riches of His glory  
inheritance of the saints

Ephesians 1:18

riches of His mercy

Ephesians 2:4

### **Romans 8:16-17**

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

if you are saved this morning, you are the recipient of this grace...how should you then live?

if you are not saved, the free gift of salvation is yours to receive...how could you refuse?

### **John 13:15**

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

### **Philippians 2:5**

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

### **Galatians 2:20**

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

### **1 Peter 2:21**

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

## 2. AN EAGERNESS TO EMULATE vs 3-5

For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

Paul used the churches of Macedonia as an example of giving for the Corinthians to follow

Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea

these churches gave even though they had suffered persecution in their own lives

### verse 2

How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

great affliction + deep poverty + grace  
= abundant joy and abounding liberality

**think about it: are circumstances in life  
ever an encouragement to giving?**

and beyond their poverty, they **BEGGED** Paul to let them have a part in the offering...they didn't want to miss out on the blessing of giving

**we are blessed to be a blessing to others**

notice the secret to this sacrificial giving:  
they gave themselves first

but first gave their own selves to the Lord,  
and unto us by the will of God.

you don't have to go to the mission field in  
order to give yourself to God...

go next door

give yourself to ministry

give yourself to serve

**verse 7** by comparison, the church at Corinth had an abundance of blessings

faith	conviction
utterance	competence
knowledge	comprehension
diligence	commitment
love	compassion

### **1 Corinthians 1:4-7**

I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; that in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: so that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

in spite of all the blessings from God, they were hesitant to give in order to help others

NOTE: **verse 8**...Paul wasn't forcing their giving

### **2 Corinthians 5:15**

And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

### **Hebrews 6:9-12**

But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

is today a time for rededicating your life to Christ, to live as He has called you?

is today the day of your salvation?