

Message Notes

Excel in this Act of Grace

Scripture Passages

(taken from the English Standard Version)

Introduction – “Suggested Donation!?”

Previously on Bridezilla (2nd Corinthians)

NEW Mini-Series
The Grace of Giving

Today's Message:
Excel in this Act of Grace
2 Corinthians 8:1-7

The CHURCH and MONEY: CRITICAL
points in discussing generosity

The grace of God to the Macedonians
2 Corinthians 8:1

What happened to the Macedonians?
2 Corinthians 8:2

Their example of generosity
2 Corinthians 8:3-5

How they gave:

1. According to their means
2. Beyond their means
3. Of their own accord
4. Begging Paul and his companions

What does it mean to give first to the Lord
and then to Paul?

The ministry of Titus
2 Corinthians 8:6

The charge to excel in this act of grace
2 Corinthians 8:7

HOW ARE WE TO EXCEL IN THIS
GRACE?

What it IS NOT

What is IS - Romans 8:29-39

Gospel Application - “Suggested Dona-
tion!?”

Community Gospel Application

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— 5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. 6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. 7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you— see that you excel in this act of grace also.

Romans 8:29-39

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is it that condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised— who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

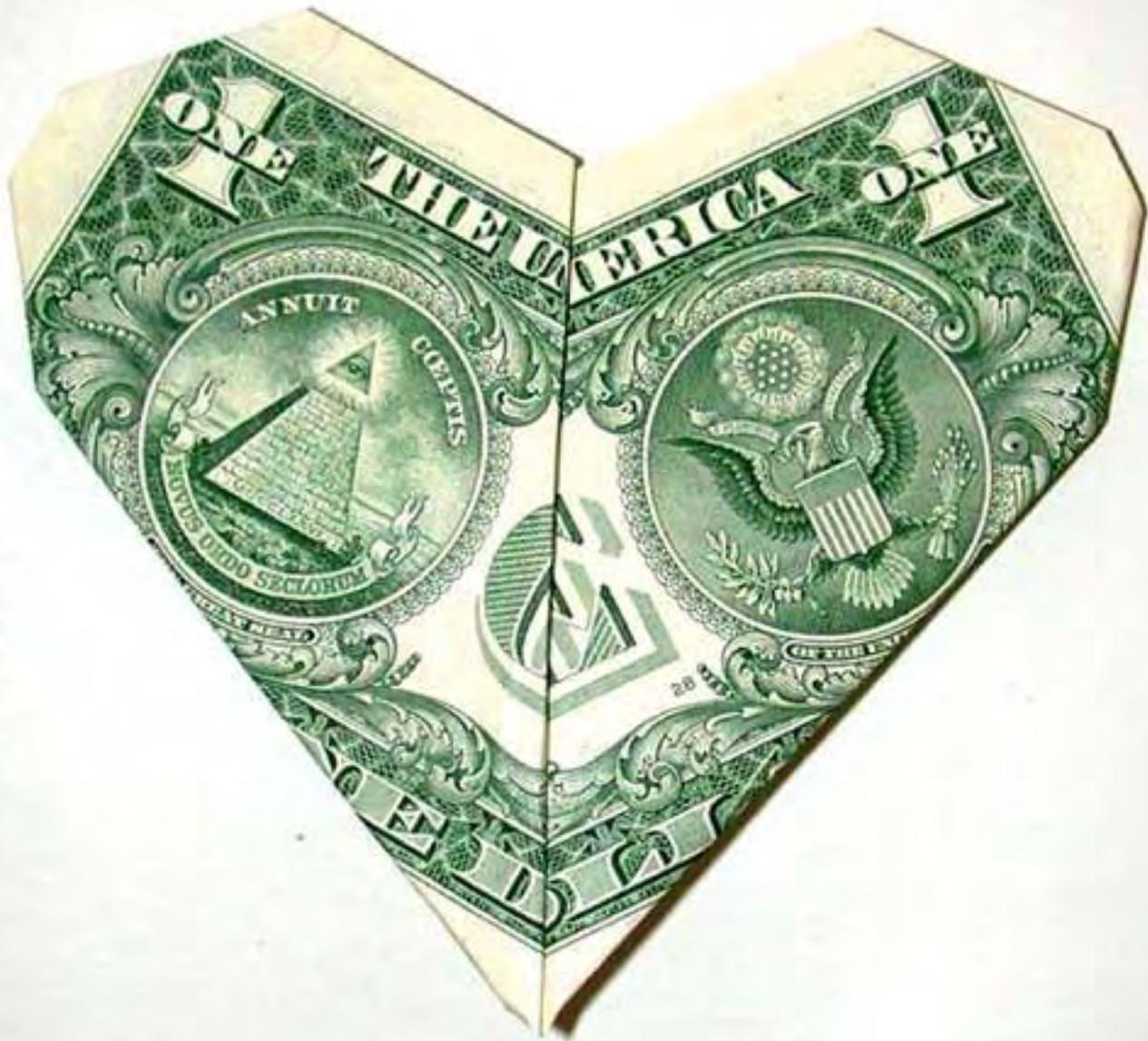












A STUDY OF 2 CORINTHIANS



BRIDEZILLA RETURNS

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IN COLOR



NEW Mini-Series



*The Grace
of
Giving*

The Church and Money



The Church and Money

1. How can it be that God invites me to come to him without money, but the church invites me to come and then asks me for my money?

The Church and Money

1. How can it be that God invites me to come to him without money, but the church invites me to come and then asks me for my money?
2. Some churches will say, “It doesn’t matter where you give. You don’t have to give here. Just give.” Yet, that seems disingenuous since the people saying that would be out of a job if everyone followed that instruction.

The Church and Money

3. The sermon should be first and foremost about God. Yet, when the sermon is about money it seems like God is nowhere to be found. Someone may even ask me, “What was the sermon about?” My answer: “Money.” Where is God?

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3. Fine. You want to talk about my money. My money is called “Earnings.” I earned it. It’s mine. Why do churches say, “it’s all God’s money”?

The Church and Money

5. What do I get in return for giving money to the church?
It doesn't result in me receiving anything. When I give that same amount of money to Amazon they give me something. What does giving my money to the church get me?

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5. What do I get in return for giving money to the church? It doesn't result in me receiving anything. When I give that same amount of money to Amazon they give me something. What does giving my money to the church get me?
6. How does money possibly relate to my spiritual life? It seems much easier to ask how much time I spend praying or spend serving at the church or how much I know about my Bible. How could the amount of money I give possibly be an indicator of my spiritual condition?

The Church and Money

7. Matters involving Money and Wealth are primarily seen with Western eyes rather than biblical eyes.

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9. Matters involving Money and Wealth are primarily seen with Western eyes rather than biblical eyes.
 - The Wealth Conundrum

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“Giving is the only antidote to materialism.”

Giving is NOT the antidote to materialism!

Materialism (def.): Constant concern over material possessions and wealth; a great or excessive regard for worldly concerns.

The ONLY antidote to materialism is
life in Christ!



Giving is NOT the antidote to materialism!

1 Timothy 6:6-10

6Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, 7for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 9But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

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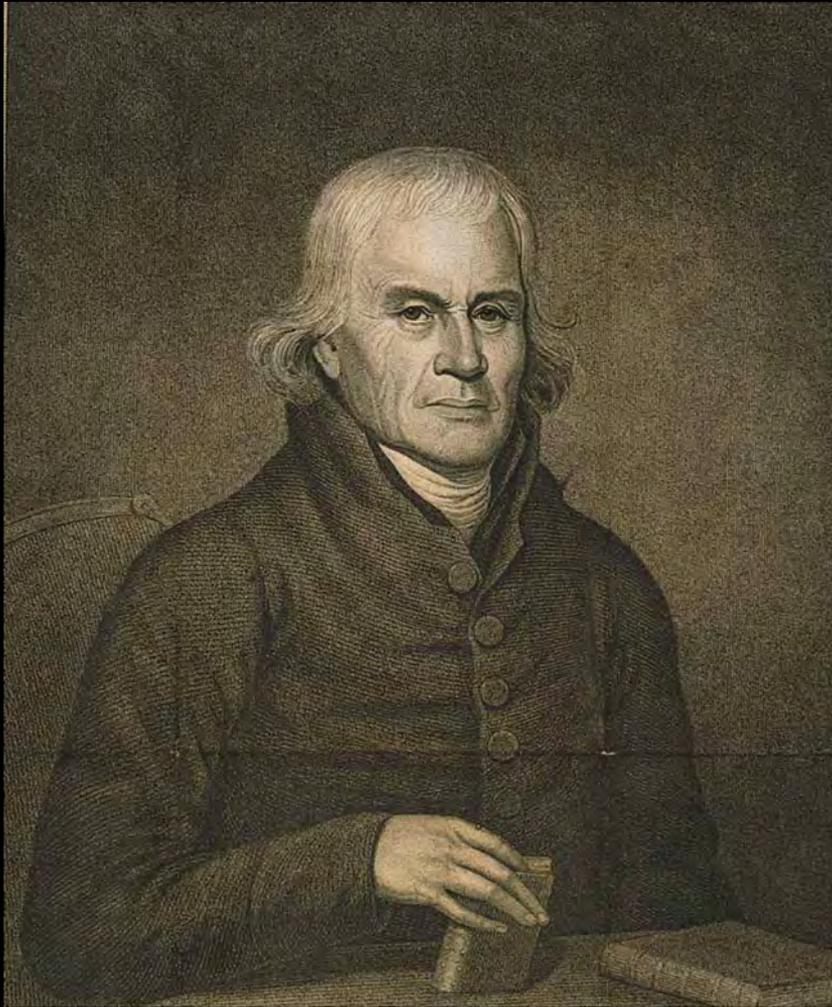
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Life in Christ is the antidote to materialism!

1 Timothy 6:17-19

17As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. **18**They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, **19**thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.



“Money never stays with me. It would burn me if it did. I throw it out of my hands as soon as possible, lest it should find its way into my heart.”

John Wesley, pastor theologian

A pile of old, worn coins, likely pennies, is shown against a black background. The coins are scattered and overlapping, with some showing signs of age and discoloration. Overlaid on the coins is the text "The Grace of Giving" in a white, elegant cursive script. The text is arranged in three lines: "The Grace" on the top line, "of" in the middle, and "Giving" on the bottom line. The overall composition is centered and visually appealing, suggesting a theme of generosity and the value of giving.

*The Grace
of
Giving*

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

1 And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. **2** Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. **3** For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, **4** they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. **5** And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. **6** So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. **7** But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us[a]—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

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“You have to work two and a half years to cover your annual living expenses.”

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What it is to excel in giving!

Romans 8:31-39

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Gospel Application

Is this an area God is calling you to repent
from materialism toward God?

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Is this an area where you commit afresh to believing God's promises?

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Are you believing giving as a grace that God would want you to excel in?

Community Gospel Application



www.hopecc.com/legacy