

HOW TO DO THE WORK OF GOD
II COR. 8:12-24

Introduction:

A. We should always be willing to accept good advice or follow good example.

1. Good advice comes from Good people.
2. Not necessarily successful people.

B. The Corinthians and Macedonians were successful in giving to the poor saints.

1. They were subjects of Paul's boasting. v24
2. How were they successful?
3. How did they do the work of God?

I. THEY DID THE WORK OF GOD WILLINGLY. V12

A. The willing heart makes anyone successful.

1. You cannot fail no matter your resources.
2. We fail when we refuse to try.

B. The will is the womb of success.

1. If a person is unwilling, he will not succeed.
2. He may inherit another's success.

II. THEY DID THE WORK OF GOD EQUALLY. V13-15

A. This equality does not imply percentages.

1. equality = isotes - equality, equal state, proportional.
2. eased = anesis - a letting loose, relaxation.

B. When we have an abundance we should share.

1. Those in need will someday be in abundance and they will help us.

C. Enough is enough. v15

1. The Israelites and Manna.
2. Exodus 16:11-21.

III. THEY DID THE WORK OF GOD SINCERELY. V16,17

A. Titus had earnest care for them.

1. spoude - haste, speed, readiness; zeal, pains, trouble, an earnest, serious purpose.
2. "of his own accord he went unto you."

B. God put this in Titus' heart.

1. "But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you."
2. I John 3:16-18.

IV. THEY DID THE WORK OF GOD CORPORATELY. V18-19

A. The churches worked together.

1. There was no need for permanent organization.
2. Committee on poverty.
3. Where there is willingness, things will be done.

B. They chose a man to administer the funds.

1. chosen = cheirotoneo - to stretch out the hand, to chose by vote or suffrage.
2. Churches may work together without excessive organization.
3. The only religious organization that can claim permanent organization is the church.

V. THEY DID THE WORK OF GOD HONESTLY. V20-21

A. When money is handled there may be charges of dishonesty

1. avoiding = stellomai - to furl or short the sail, when coming to shore or in order to avoid danger in navigation.
2. blame = momaomai - to find fault, criticize.

B. Money should be handled with two things in mind. v21

1. "sight of the Lord."
2. "sight of men."

C. Honesty of this nature is comely.

1. honest = kalos = beautiful, comely, noble.
2. providing = proneo - to provide for on one's own behalf.

VI. THEY DID THE WORK OF GOD DILIGENTLY. V22

A. "our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things."

1. diligent = spoudazo - to make haste, do the utmost.
2. He proved himself oftentimes.

B. Here was a brother who gained the reputation of getting things done.

1. When such men exist, thank God for them and let them get things done!

VII. THEY DID THE WORK OF GOT BROTHERLY. V23-24

A. The relationship Titus to Paul.

1. partner = koinonos - a sharer in common.
2. fellowhelper = sunergos - fellow-worker.

B. Their relationship to the churches.

1. messengers = apostolos - an official envoy, the one who delivers the collection.
2. "glory of Christ." = they bear that which is a glory to Christ.

VIII. THESE ARE WORKABLE CHARACTERISTICS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE IN ANY AGE.

A. Willingness, Equality, Sincerity, Co-operation, Honesty, Diligence, Brotherly love.