

PERFORM THE DOING OF IT
II COR. 8:7-12

Introduction:

- A. Paul has highly complimented the Macedonian churches.
 - 1. They had given a sacrificial sum to the poor saints at Jerusalem. 8:1-5
 - 2. The gift is always large if it is sacrificial.

- B. The Apostle desired the church at Corinth to have more than good intentions.
 - 1. v11.
 - 2. The goodness of an intention is seen only in its performance.
 - 3. An intention unfulfilled is a broken promise waiting for its time.

I. THE CHURCH AT CORINTH WAS A GOOD CHURCH. V7

- A. The character of the church.
 - 1. They did more than enough.
 - a. abound = perisseuo - to be more than enough.
 - 2. faith = pistis - firm persuasion.
 - 3. utterance = logos - the word spoken.
 - 4. knowledge = gnosis - the understanding of a thing.
 - 5. diligence = spoude - speed, earnestness, zeal.
 - 6. love to us = agape.

- B. They were to do more than enough in this gift of money.
 - 1. How much do they have to have?
 - 2. "see that ye abound in this grace also."

- C. We probably wouldn't use these words to describe a "good" church in our age.
 - 1. Numbers, Offerings, Buildings, Programs.

II. RATHER THAN COMMAND, PAUL CHALLENGED THEM. V8

- A. Liberality cannot be commanded.
 - 1. Its nature demands spontaneity.
 - 2. If you think of your needs you may give but it will not be liberal.
 - 3. commandment = epitage - express injunction of law.

- B. The test of liberality was the Macedonian gift.
 - 1. "but by occasion of the forwardness of others."
 - 2. occasion = aphorme - a starting place.
 - 3. forwardness = spoude - earnestness, speed, zeal.

- C. It would prove their love to be genuine.
 - 1. "and to prove the sincerity of your love."
 - 2. sincerity = gnesios - born in wedlock. A love child born in legal marriage.
 - 3. Feelings do not make us compassionate!

III. THE GREAT EXAMPLE OF TRUE LIBERALITY. V9

- A. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - 1. All of you are aware of the liberality of our Lord Jesus, the Christ."

- B. "though he was rich."
 - 1. Rich before He came.
 - 2. All riches were His.
 - 3. He owned all things.

- C. "yet for your sakes He became poor."
 - 1. For the sake of humanity he never claimed what was rightfully his.
 - 2. Matt. 8:20, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."
 - 3. His poverty was self-imposed.

- D. "that ye through his poverty might be rich."

1. poverty = ptocheia - begging, want, need.
2. rich = plousios - having an abundance of wealth.

IV. TURE LIBERALITY MUST NOT CONCLUDE IN INTENTION. V10-12

- A. They had begun some time earlier and they should now conclude.
 1. "and herein I give my advice, for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do but also to be forward a year ago."
 - a. advice = gnome - an opinion.
 - b. expedient = sumphero - to be profitable.
 - c. forward = thelo - to will, to wish, desire.
 2. Here is my opinion, it is to your interest to go on with this enterprise, for you started it last year, you were the first not merely to do anything but to want to do anything.
- B. They should now complete what they begun.
 1. "Now therefore perform the doing of it."
 2. perform = epeteleo - to bring through to an end.
- C. They were willing and therefore were able.
 1. "that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have."
 - a. readiness = prothumia - eagerness, willingness.
 - b. performance = epiteleo - to bring through to a completion.
 2. Willing and able? No, willing makes us altogether able!
- D. They did not need great wealth to be a liberal giver.
v12
 1. "For-if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not."
 2. Examples of this truth.

- a. Jesus.
- b. The widow who gave two mites.
- c. Mark 12:41-44.

V. THERE ARE TWO ESSENTIAL TRUTHS FOR US.

- A. Liberality is a mark of the genuine Christian.
 - 1. Christ-like.
- B. Anyone who is willing can be liberal.