

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for January 9, 2011**

**“The Example of the Macedonians”**  
**2 Corinthians 8:1**

As Paul began to address the repentant within the church of Corinth, he detailed for them certain responsibilities that still remained for them to fulfill.

The first responsibility that Paul brought to the attention of the repentant in 2 Corinthians 7:2-16 was their need to completely separate from his opponents.

The second responsibility that Paul brought to the attention of the repentant was their need to complete the collection for the poverty stricken believers in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:1 - 9:15).

What did Paul share with the Corinthians that helped them to become wholeheartedly committed to completing the collection that they had begun a year earlier?

The first thing that Paul shared with the Corinthians was the example of the Macedonians (2 Corinthians 8:1-7).

The grace that Paul was so eager for the Corinthians to know about and that had been given to the churches of Macedonia by God was the grace of giving as described in 2 Corinthians 8:2-5.

The term “the grace of God,” when not limited by its context to one specific thing, is an inclusive term that refers to all of God’s undeserved gifts and kindness, all of which flow from our reconciliation to Himself in Christ.

Having access to God’s grace, to all of God’s undeserved gifts and kindness, makes it possible for us to live holy lives (Philippians 2:12-13; 4:13).

Knowing that there is sufficient grace available to us to live holy lives and also knowing that we are not yet perfect, now let us commit ourselves before God to grow in His grace (2 Peter 3:18).

The example of the Macedonians and the manner in which the grace of God was manifested as described in 2 Corinthians 8:2-5 would have been worthless if the Corinthians had not repented.

May we, as those who have been reconciled to God in Christ, ask God to help us grow in the grace of giving.

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