

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for February 13, 2011**

**“The Example of Christ”**  
**2 Corinthians 8:8-10**

As Paul began to address the repentant within the church of Corinth beginning in 2 Corinthians 7:2, 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 for the poor believers in 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15?

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

The second thing that Paul shared with the Corinthians was the example of Christ (2 Corinthians 8:8-10).

Paul's point in 2 Corinthians 8:8 is not to deny that he had given the Corinthians a command in 2 Corinthians 8:7, but rather that the command that he had given was from him and not a direct command from Christ (2 Corinthians 8:10-11).

Why would Paul, an authoritative apostle of Christ, be so bold to command the Corinthians to abound in this gracious work of giving?

The Corinthians, like the Macedonians, should abound in this gracious work of giving because this would prove their love for Paul and his associates and show that their repentance was genuine (2 Corinthians 8:8).

The Corinthians should abound in this gracious work of giving because joyously giving in order to meet the need of others is what Christ is all about (2 Corinthians 8:9).

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ denotes the utterly undeserved, royally free, effective, unwearying, inexhaustible good will of God, active in and through Jesus Christ.

Paul's references to Jesus being "rich" and "poor" do not signify His economic status, but his preexistence with the Father and His entering into the humble circumstances of this world including death (Philippians 2:6-8).

Paul's reference to us becoming rich is not a reference to material wealth but to all the blessings of salvation.

May God give us the grace to understand that joyful giving is not the path to poverty and deprivation but rather the path to riches as the life of Christ fills us and is manifested through us.