

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for February 20, 2011

“Paul’s Expectation for the Corinthians”
2 Corinthians 8:11-12

As Paul began to address the repentant within the church of Corinth beginning in 2 Corinthians 7:2, he detailed 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).

The third thing that Paul shared with the Corinthians was his expectation of them in respect to the collection (2 Corinthians 8:11-15).

When Paul told the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 8:11 to “finish doing it also,” he was explicitly commanding the repentant within the church to complete what they had begun a year earlier in respect to the collection.

Paul, after having commanded the Corinthians to finish the collection, qualified that command by telling them that it should be by their ability in 2 Corinthians 8:11. God is not concerned with the amount we give, He is only concerned that when we do give, we give willingly according to our ability as a manifestation of His Spirit (2 Corinthians 8:12).

The nation of Israel under the Mosaic Law was required to give tithes, but the church is not required to give tithes.

The nation of Israel was required to give three different tithes under the Mosaic Law (Leviticus 27:30-33; Numbers 18:20-21; Deuteronomy 12:17-18, 14:28-29).

Though Israel under the Mosaic Law was required to give tithes, the church is not the nation of Israel and therefore is not required to give tithes, for the church is “in Christ” according to Romans 7:1-4 and is therefore dead to the Law.

Though God does not command the church to tithe, He does expect the individual members of His church in response to His grace and as an expression of Christ’s life to financially give, and, as they are able, to meet the spiritual and material needs of others.

We as members of Christ’s church, as we seek to meet the spiritual needs of others, must first and foremost support the ministers and therefore the ministries of this church (Matthew 10:10).

May God give us the grace, as an expression of the life of Christ, to give joyfully according to our ability so that the spiritual and material needs of others might be met.