

Christian giving and its meaning

II Corinthians 8:1-9:15

*have the same mindset as Christ
Jesus: Who, being [because he was]
in very nature God, did not
consider equality with God
something to be used to his own
advantage; rather, he made himself
nothing [poured himself out]*

Philippians 2:5-7

Historical Background to Collection for Jerusalem

²⁵ Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem. ²⁷ They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.

Romans 15:25-27

Theological foundations of giving

- it would be a realization of Christian charity (Gal 2:10; 2 Cor 8:14; 9:12; Rom 15:25);
- it would be an expression of Christian unity (2 Cor 9:13-14; Rom 15:27); and
- it would be an anticipation of Christian eschatology (Romans 9-11 . . .)

Why give

- Grace of God (Grace 8:1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 16, 19; 9:8, 14, 15. Thanksgiving 9:11, 12.)
- Example of Christ (8:9)
- Shows sincerity of love (8:8)
- Establish equality (8:13-15)

How do we give to express these things

- Gladly and Willingly (8:2; 9:7)
- Sacrificially (8:2-3)
- Wholeheartedly (8:4)

How do we give to express these things

- Faithfully (8:10-11)
- Generously (9:5, 11)
- Intentionally (9:7)

So?

- Giving should be a joy because of what God has done for us
- Giving is a part of Christian obedience
- Giving is not giving that which we don't need
- We should think about what we give; to whom we give and how we give

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord.