

This Way Up

Pembroke Bible Chapel
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Policies in Giving 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

Over a period of several years, the Apostle Paul arranged for the churches, which he had founded throughout the Roman Empire, to provide a substantial financial gift for the needy believers in the church in Jerusalem. The Corinthian church participated in this service. (*Acts 20:4; 1 Cor. 16:1; 2 Cor. 8 & 9*).

The motivation of these early believers was their great love for each other, their recognition of the spiritual debt these Gentile Christians felt toward the founding Jewish Christians in Jerusalem, and ultimately in order to bring glory to God (*Acts 8:1, 11, 15; 2 Cor. 8:8, 10, 13-15, 24; Rom. 15:27*).

I. A Plurality of Participants

Paul selected three reliable men to go to Corinth to complete the preparation for sending the Corinthian gift to Jerusalem. These men were renowned throughout the Christian world for their integrity and zeal for the glory of God (*vs. 16-19, 23*).

II. A Pure Purpose

While this service met real needs in Jerusalem, its primary purpose was to glorify God (*vs. 19*).

III. A Prudent Precaution

In order to avoid any possible concern over the administration of this gift, Paul wisely partnered with his faithful fellow workers throughout the regions of Achaia, Macedonia, Galatia, and Asia (*vs. 20,21*).

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Application

We live in a world where requests for financial aid come from seemingly every direction. There are many worthwhile causes to support. How do we decide from these myriad of voices?

Chapters 8 and 9 of 2 Corinthians provide some of the most pertinent direction for believers seeking to honor God in their giving. Some suggested guidelines for giving are:

1. Primary – How does it bring glory to God?
2. People – The needy who are the born again believers and who are truly destitute?
3. Plurality - Do other believers with whom you serve see the same need?

In dealing with financial matters as well as all other matters related to our Christian living some precautions are given in this passage.

1. There should be a plurality of believers involved to provide wisdom, transparency, and integrity.
2. These participants must be of high character.
3. They must have been proven under testing and shown to be honorable and diligent.