

TRANSPARENT

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1

TRANSPARENT

In the midst of a very severe trial,  
their overflowing joy and their  
extreme poverty welled up in rich  
generosity.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:2

TRANSPARENT

For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own,

2 CORINTHIANS 8:3

TRANSPARENT

they urgently pleaded with us for the  
privilege of sharing in this service to  
the Lord's people.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:4

TRANSPARENT

And they exceeded our expectations:  
They gave themselves first of all to  
the Lord, and then by the will of God  
also to us.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:5

TRANSPARENT

So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:6

TRANSPARENT

But since you excel in everything —  
in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in  
complete earnestness and in the love  
we have kindled in you — see that  
you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:7

TRANSPARENT



TRANSPARENT

“Paul spends most of his time explaining the principles that should motivate generosity rather than ordering the Corinthians to do what he wants.”

DAVID GARLAND

TRANSPARENT

TRANSPARENT

# The Background of Grace: Theology & History (8:1)

TRANSPARENT



**ITALY**

**ADRIATIC  
SEA**

**M A C E D O N I A**

**Berea**

**Philippi**

**Thessalonica**

**AEGEAN  
SEA**

**Troas**

**ASIA**

**IONIAN SEA**

**A C H A I A**

**Athens**

**Corinth**

**Ephesus**

**PELOPONNESE**

**MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

## The Background of Grace: Theology & History

“Grace is God’s unconditional benevolence toward us. When people are spontaneously generous toward others, Paul takes it as clear evidence that God’s grace is working in and through them.”

DAVID GARLAND

TRANSPARENT

## The Background of Grace: Theology & History

“One of the effects of saving, transforming, sanctifying grace is a longing to give generously and sacrificially to those in need, especially other believers.”

JOHN MACARTHUR

TRANSPARENT

# The Background of Grace: Theology & History

TRANSPARENT



The Picture of  
Grace: An Exemplary  
Church (8:2-5)

TRANSPARENT

# The Picture of Grace: An Exemplary Church

1 Grace lets no circumstance get  
in the way of generosity.

TRANSPARENT

# The Picture of Grace: An Exemplary Church

“Devout Christians do not wait until they have more money; they give despite their poverty.”

JOHN MACARTHUR

TRANSPARENT

# The Picture of Grace: An Exemplary Church

The Macedonians gave (1) voluntarily,  
(2) eagerly, and (3) sacrificially.

TRANSPARENT

# The Picture of Grace: An Exemplary Church

2 Grace shows itself in earnest  
and extravagant generosity.

TRANSPARENT

## The Picture of Grace: An Exemplary Church

“One of the great spiritual poverties in the Western Church has to do with our wealth of material resources: we are drowning in wealth. It lulls us to depend on that rather than on the Lord.”

GEORGE GUTHRIE

TRANSPARENT

## The Picture of Grace: An Exemplary Church

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

ACTS 20:35

TRANSPARENT

# The Picture of Grace: An Exemplary Church

3 Grace finds its source in God and its outlet in generosity to people.

TRANSPARENT



# The Picture of Grace: An Exemplary Church

“The supreme act of worship is not giving money, but giving oneself.”

JOHN MACARTHUR

TRANSPARENT

## The Picture of Grace: An Exemplary Church

“Commitment to the Lordship of Christ stands as the preeminent foundation stone for a robust, joy-infused, sacrificial giving. Giving of oneself should be seen as foundational for a robust giving of one’s possessions.”

GEORGE GUTHRIE

TRANSPARENT

# The Picture of Grace: An Exemplary Church

“The goal is not to get people to open their resources but to open their hearts.”

GEORGE GUTHRIE

TRANSPARENT

# The Picture of Grace: An Exemplary Church

TRANSPARENT

The Excellence of  
Grace: A Challenged  
Church (8:6,7)

TRANSPARENT

## The Excellence of Grace: A Challenged Church

“Our generosity to the church is not unrelated to our witness to the world. When we make the church look good and the believers are helped, we give evidence to the world of God’s blessing and care for His people.”

JOEL ZOOK

TRANSPARENT

# The Excellence of Grace: A Challenged Church

TRANSPARENT

# Some Myths of Overflowing Grace

TRANSPARENT



## Some Myths of Overflowing Grace

The grace of God is primarily shown through material blessing. (8:1)

TRANSPARENT

## Some Myths of Overflowing Grace

Generosity is primarily related to a large amount of material wealth. (8:2)

TRANSPARENT

## Some Myths of Overflowing Grace

Giving is limited to what seems to be reasonable, within our capacity. (8:3)

TRANSPARENT

## Some Myths of Overflowing Grace

Generosity is best fueled by internal willpower or external pressure. (8:5)

TRANSPARENT

# Some Myths of Overflowing Grace

Generosity is fulfilled by good intentions. (8:6)

TRANSPARENT

# Some Myths of Overflowing Grace

Generosity typically exists in isolation  
from other spiritual fruit. (8:7)

TRANSPARENT

## Some Myths of Overflowing Grace

- The grace of God is primarily shown through material blessing. (8:1)
- Generosity is primarily related to a large amount of material wealth. (8:2)
- Giving is limited to what seems to be reasonable, within our capacity. (8:3)
- Generosity is best fueled by internal willpower or external pressure. (8:5)
- Generosity is fulfilled by good intentions. (8:6)
- Generosity typically exists in isolation from other spiritual fruit. (8:7)

TRANSPARENT

# Some Myths of Overflowing Grace

TRANSPARENT



**The grace of God  
leads us to the  
grace of generosity.**

**T R A N S P A R E N T**

TRANSPARENT