**Week of August 12, 2018**

**2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

**Giving Your All**

7But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+8%3A7-15&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28940a)]—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

8I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 9For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

10And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. 11Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. 12For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

13Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. 14At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, 15as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”

**Understanding of the Scripture**

There used to be an old saying that I once heard and it said that “talk is cheap, it takes money to buy land”. I often wondered what was meant by that and then one day it was explained to me. We can have a solid belief and a sincere heart on getting something done but what happens in our actions. In today’s scripture Paul is acknowledging the sincere in the saints but he gives them a challenge. Almost telling them to put their money where their mouth is type of saying. Paul is asking them to have the same deep sincere faith and love that they have in the faith in how they are giving. Paul asking them to let their grace of giving be as equal to their zeal in the faith. In his asking of them to do this, he was not commanding but testing to see how true their love is as Christ left all of his riches to become poor for our sakes. It is not like these individual were not giving or had not given before but maybe their giving was not with the same zeal as their other actions. Paul wants them to truly search the love in their heart and let it guide how they give and help others. Each of us have done things on a routine basis and realized that it we did not give our all. Paul is stressing that they give out of their hearts in a manner that was equal to what they truly could give. If everyone did that then there would be fairness and equity among the givers.

