

Bible Study Series: "Not So With You" (lesson 6) Wealth (pt. 3)

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Our quest continues to define and describe the distinctive characteristics of Christ-Followers. Christ-Followers have a "Kingdom" perspective with respect to Wealth/Material. To refresh our understanding of "Kingdom" perspective we first saw how Wealth/Material can corrupt. Last week, we introduced an antidote to the corruption, seeing Wealth/Material as a grace or gift. Today, we will discover how the "Open Hands" methodology we considered last week works within Scripture.

**Paul shows how the Macedonian Christ-Followers are a great example of _____
(Receiving/Giving).**

"In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶ 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 8:2-6

Paul teaches and encourages the Corinthians to likewise give with _____.

- Paul reveals first how dealing with material wealth is an area of _____.

"But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you¹—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 8:7

- Paul is determined not to Command to Give but rather shows how giving is a test of _____.

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others."

2 Corinthians 8:8

- Giving is an opportunity to imitate _____.

"For 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." 2 Corinthians 8:9

Paul teaches that Situations of Great Need are Opportunities For Christ-Followers to _____ !

"But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you¹—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 8:7

"Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴ At 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, ¹⁵ as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little." 2 Corinthians 8:13-15

Bottomline:

1. We are talking about Christ-followers/Church and NOT those outside the Church!!!
2. Grace can either die with us or awaken us to find our place in His Kingdom!