

THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
(The Meaning of Offering I)

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Key Verse: 8:9

**“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.”**

[As part of the ministry of reconciliation, Paul had been collecting an offering from all the Gentile churches to take with him to give to the church in Jerusalem. His purpose in collecting the offering was for the relief of the Jerusalem church, and, to build spiritual unity between Jewish and Gentile Christians (Ro15:26-27).]

1. Which church example did Paul mention in offering to God (1)? What was their situation, and how could they joyfully make such a generous offering (2)? Why was God's grace their bases of giving? How did they give in terms of their ability, initiative and motivation (3-4)?
2. What and to whom did they offer first (5)? Why is this important? What can we learn from them? How did Paul urge the Corinthians (6-7)? In what aspect did the Corinthians excel? What did Paul intend by his encouragement (8)?
3. Read verse 9. What is the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ? In what respect was Jesus rich, and how did he become poor (Jn1:1-3; 14a; Mt 8:20; Php2:6-8)? How does this grace of our Lord Jesus Christ affect our Christian life, and especially our giving?
4. What was Paul's advice to the Corinthians (10-11)? After making an offering pledge, why is it important to follow through with it? What kind of attitude makes the offering acceptable to God (12)?
5. How might Paul have been misunderstood in asking for this offering, and what was his real intention (13-14)? What is the Biblical foundation for this (15)?
6. How can we apply Paul's advice in offering to Corinthians in our own life?