

AHOLE IN THE GOSPEL?

EXAMPLES

- * Macedonian example
 - Unexpected Reaction
 - What have you "Given yourself too?"
- * Jesus Example
 - He became poor so that we could be rich

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

⁽¹⁾ Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. ⁽²⁾ Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

G *God's
R *riches
A *at
C *Christ's
E *Expense

For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war." **2 Chronicles 16:9**

1 John 3:16-17

⁽¹⁶⁾ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ⁽¹⁷⁾ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

CHALLENGE

- *We are all connected
- * Our plenty meets their need. Someday our need will be met by their plenty.

8/2/2009

2 Corinthians 8 1-15 (NIV)

⁽¹⁾ And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ⁽²⁾ Out of the most 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 saints. ⁽⁵⁾ And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. ⁽⁶⁾ So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁽⁷⁾ But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also excel in this grace of giving. ⁽⁸⁾ I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁽⁹⁾ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. ⁽¹⁰⁾ And here is my advice 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. ⁽¹¹⁾ Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. ⁽¹²⁾ For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. ⁽¹³⁾ 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. Then there will be equality, ⁽¹⁵⁾ as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little."

Live a Life that Demands an Explanation