

# Sermon Outline

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NOBC

#24 2 Corinthians 8:16-24 (page 856)

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## God's Grace of Giving: Part 4

The verses we study this morning deal with some of the emotional, as well as practical matters related to Christian giving.

There is much that would benefit the church of today by studying and relating to Christian giving, stewardship and the handling of gifts in the New Testament. Some of the issues that negatively affect many churches and Christian enterprises could be avoided by simply studying the patterns found in the New Testament, understanding them, and then diligently following them.

This morning we will see some of the wise and biblically sound principles Paul followed as he collected the benevolent offering from the gentile mission churches to assist the believers in the Jerusalem church.

### I. THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS 2 COR. 8:16-18

#### A. Titus

1. Titus' deep personal relationship with the Corinthians 2 Cor. 7:15
  - a. Titus had invested time with them: he paid the necessary price
  - b. Titus deeply cared for them, and they knew it
2. Titus had bonded with them 2 Cor. 8:16-17
  - a. He knew how to get them to do what they needed to do
  - b. He wanted them to be blessed and fulfilled
  - c. His involvement with them was based on his own inner motivation

#### B. The Unnamed Christian Brother 2 Cor. 8:18-19a

1. He was highly respected by all who knew him
2. He had been selected by the people to this place of service 2 Cor. 8:19a

### II. PRACTICAL STEPS TO PREVENT POSSIBLE PROBLEMS 2 COR. 8:19-23

#### A. Recognize That Problems Can Develop In The Church About Money

1. Sometimes Christians mishandle the gifts of others
2. Sometimes Christians accuse others of doing things they themselves would do if they were in that same situation

#### B. Take The Proper Steps To Prevent Both Wrongs and False Accusations

1. The church has some responsibilities to take proper steps to safeguard the handling of the gifts of the people and remove the possibility of temptations
2. The people handling the gifts need to be proven and trustworthy
3. Paul made it difficult for both wrongdoing to occur and false accusations to be made: He took steps to instill confidence in even those who had accused him of wrongdoing
4. Make sure that all involved serve with the proper motivations of service and the approval of those served

#### C. Christians Prove Their Love 2 Cor. 8:24

1. Christian love is practical
2. Christian love is a verb of action
3. Christian love is unashamed and is often open and publicly known