

First to the Lord

Lesson Two • 2Corinthians 8:10-24
Finish What You Start

The Goal of First to the Lord:

To grow in the grace of giving; to GO GENEROUS as a demonstration of God's love and in response to God's grace.

But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also. 2Corinthians 8:7

Is Going Generous Really Possible?

Yes, but one of the obstacles that stands in the way of going generous is STOPPAGE in finishing what you start or keeping your commitment.

And in this I give my advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. 2Corinthians 8:10-11

Why Finish What You Start?

To GLORIFY the Lord and to SHOW your love.

*And not only that, but who was also chosen by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us to the glory of the Lord Himself and to show your ready mind. 2Corinthians 8:19
I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. 2Corinthians 8:8*

Therefore show to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf. 2Corinthians 8:24

Finish What You Start:

I. The Promise of Giving: Finish It FAITHFULLY!

Two Principles for Giving Faithfully:

- Giving should be PROPORTIONATE to what one has. vs. 11-12
- Giving is part of God's plan of PROVISION. vs. 13-15

The Blessing:

Giving faithfully BENEFITS you.

And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you...So now finish doing it as well... 2Corinthians 8:10a & 11a ESV

2. The Procedure of Collecting: Administrate It HONORABLY!

The Goal:

To administrate church finances with utmost INTEGRITY.

Avoiding this: that anyone should blame us in this lavish gift which is administered by us—providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men. 2Corinthians 8:20-21

Two Principles for Honorable Administration of Finances:

- Godly PEOPLE should be involved in financial matters. vs. 16-24
- Good PRACTICES should be implemented in financial matters. vs. 20-21

Three Steps to Finish What You Start:

- MAKE a commitment to give in 2013.
- TRUST the Lord as you give throughout the year.
- KEEP your promise to give no matter what.

