

Stewardship Lesson 2: Discovering The Grace of Giving Yourself

CONTROL TRUTH: The living grace of God is the desire, the ability, and the power to do God's will.

TEXT: II Corinthians 8:1-7

THEME VERSE: *“And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.”* (II Corinthians 8:7)

PURPOSE: The churches of Macedonia were three in number. All of them are mentioned in Acts 16 and 17. They are the churches of Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea. As we study the book of Acts and the letters of Paul to Philippi and Thessalonica, we learn the characteristics which made the Macedonians abound to every good work.

I. THE OPERATION OF GOD'S GRACE ENABLED THE MACEDONIANS TO GIVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD (II CORINTHIANS 8:5).

- a. The operation of God's grace enabled the Macedonians to be counted worthy to suffer tribulation.
 - i. Negative Principle

- 1. Man's natural tendency is to flee from tribulation.

- a. _____

- b. _____

- ii. Positive Principle

- 1. The Macedonians entered into the “fellowship” of Christ's suffering only by an operation of God's grace. (Philippians 3:10).

- a. _____

- b. _____

- b. The operation of God's grace enabled the Macedonians to share their faith boldly.

i. Negative Principle

1. Man's natural tendency is to resist God's will in sharing his faith.

a. _____

ii. Positive Principle

1. The Macedonians, through God's grace, boldly shared the gospel in the face of active persecution.

a. _____

b. _____

c. The operation of God's grace produced in the Macedonians a deep desire to know God's word.

i. Negative Principle

1. Man's natural tendency is to resist the truth of God's word.

a. _____

ii. Positive Principal

1. The Macedonians appropriated the grace of God in their obedience to the truth of scripture.

a. _____

b. _____

II. THE OPERATION OF GOD'S GRACE ENABLED THE MACEDONIANS TO GIVE THEMSELVES TO OTERHS.

a. The operation of God's grace caused the Macedonian believers to abound in their love for one another.

i. Negative Principle

1. Man's natural tendency is characterized by wrath, strife, fighting, and seditions.

- a. Galatians 5:19-21
- b. James 4:1,2

ii. Positive Principle

- 1. The grace of God, active in the life of the Macedonians, produced abounding love.

a. _____

b. _____

- b. The operation of God's grace caused the Macedonians to overcome cultural barriers.

i. Negative Principle

- 1. Man's natural tendency is to yield to prejudice.

a. John 4:9

ii. Positive Principle

- 1. The grace of God empowered the Macedonians to transcend racial and cultural barriers in both their giving and service.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____
