

Hello. We will begin the 20th lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /The message is from 2 Corinthians 8:16. /Verses 16-22 are about the proper delivery of generous gifts.

/Verses 16-19. Let us read. /But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest he is going to you of his own accord. With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel. And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will.

/When Titus, to whom Paul appealed, went to the church of Corinth, he did not grudgingly go. /He volunteered with an earnest heart. /Paul gives thanks to God for putting into the heart of Titus the same earnest care that he has.

/The work of God happens when the leader makes an appeal and the person volunteers. /Paul sent two other people with Titus to the church of Corinth. Refer to verse 22.

/The text only introduces one of the two other people. He is Barnabas, whom some say is Mark, but we cannot know for certain. /What is clear is that he is famous among all the churches for preaching the gospel.

/The one who was sent with Titus believed and proclaimed the gospel, and he was famous among the churches. /We must especially appoint someone who is famous among believers to handle collections and finances in order to do good for the gospel of God.

/Verse 19 says, “For the glory of the Lord himself.” /What this means is that this person works for the glory of the Lord. /We must give generously, give aid, and volunteer for the glory of the Lord.

/We must not do it for our personal glory. /Verse 19 also says, “And to show our good will.” /This is Paul’s wish to complete the work of giving generously. /The person who serves in this work is someone who has been appointed by the churches of Macedonia. Paul introduces this person as the church of Corinth.

/Verses 20-22. /We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man. And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often tested and found earnest in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you.

/We need to be careful about handling these collections. /No one should blame Paul about this generous gift that is administered by him. /Therefore, he carefully chose someone who was acknowledged by many people, and he sent this person with Titus.

/A real man is honest with his wealth. /A true believer flawlessly and precisely manages wealth. /Especially when it comes to the church's finances, someone who is acknowledged by other believers must be left to handle the finances. This person must properly manage the finance books.

/They must be honest in everything so that others do not blame them. /Concerning money, we must always be honest before God, but we also need to be honest before other people if we do not want to be blamed.

/The devil always follows money. /Therefore, we must properly handle money if we do not want to give the devil an opportunity. /Verse 22 introduces one of the two people who were sent with Titus.

/He is someone who has passed several tests to gain their trust. /He was the right man for the job of managing the generous gifts. /He was also someone who earnestly longed for the church of Corinth after hearing the news about the church.

/Verses 23-24. /As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.

/Paul, apart from his disciple Timothy, who was also like a son, had Titus. /Paul introduces Titus as his partner. /He calls him his fellow partner. /A fellow worker is someone who works equally for the Lord's work.

/Next, it says, "As for our brothers." "Our brothers" are the two people who were sent with Titus. /Verse 24 tells us that the believers in Corinth actively shared in the grace of giving generously. Paul is telling the believers in Corinth to make known their love for other churches and to make known the fruits that they bore, the fruits that Paul boasted about.

/If the believers in Corinth hear this word of encouragement and work harder to give generously, they are providing proof of their love for God and their faith. /The church of Corinth also bears the fruit of loving other churches. /This also is proof of Paul's boasting in them. /Paul is telling them to make known the fruits of proof to Titus and the two others whom Paul sent.

/We will study chapter 9. The title of chapter 9 is "Generous Gifts." /First, verses 1-5, encouragement to give with zeal. /Second, verses 6-10. Give with a heart of thanks. /Third, give glory to God with thanksgiving. /Verses 11-15.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints,

/Giving is a fruit of faith, and it is a fragrant sacrifice pleasing to God. /Philippians 4:17,18. /Offering our possessions to God is a small deed that is in the early stages of faith.

/The second level of faith goes beyond human affection. /Abraham, who offered his only son to God, and Hannah, who offered her son Samuel to God, went beyond human affection. /When the judge Jephthah sacrificed his daughter, he went beyond human affection.

/After we pass through the stages of offering our possessions and going beyond human affection, we go into the third stage, which transcends life. /At this stage, we must offer our entire lives to God if we want to believe in Jesus and follow him.

/Achaia in verse 2 refers to the southern region of Greece, the area in which Corinth is located. /Since one year ago, the church of Corinth wanted to give generously. That is why Paul boasted of this when he was in Macedonia.

/The Macedonians were deeply moved when they heard this. In other words, they too decided to give beyond their strength.

/Verse 3 says, "But I am sending the brothers so that..." /The brothers are the two people who accompanied Titus. /Paul sent them to the church of Corinth so the church would prepare the collection.

/To other churches, Paul boasted about the church of Corinth that began to give generously. However, if the church does not complete what it started, Paul's boasts are in vain.

/Gifts that are prepared in advance and then given are true offerings that are not forced. /It is good for us to prepare generous gifts in advance. /We shouldn't be forced to do so.

/When we promise these gifts, we need to give to God according to our wealth. /If Christians spend a lot of money on other things but give little, they are not properly applying their faith or conscience.

/We must not be slow to offer to God what we promise to give him. We need to give it to him quickly. /If we make a vow to God, we must not delay fulfilling it. /Deuteronomy 23:21. /As our second point, verses 6-10. /Give with a heart of thanks.

/Verse 6. /The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

/Giving to God is like sowing seed. /Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully. /Whoever puts all his strength into giving generously will receive spiritual things from God.

/The believer who gives generously makes use of his faith. /His born again spirit is working. /He applies his good conscience and gives with a heart of thanksgiving to God.

/Because giving is planting spiritual seed, whoever sows bountifully will reap spiritual things. /If we do not give, we do not sow spiritual things, which means we will not reap anything.

/Furthermore, if we do not give according to our means, if we give less than what we are capable of giving, we sow sparingly and sparingly reap spiritual things. /The believer who spares his possessions will lose spiritual things. This is a foolish thing.

/Verse 7 says that the believer must not give reluctantly or under compulsion. /It is inappropriate for us to give to God with a reluctant heart or under compulsion. /God delights when we give in gratitude of grace and with a cheerful heart. /God gives abundantly to those who sow for him.

/Verse 8 says, “And God is able to make all grace abound to you.” /God abundantly gives every spiritual grace and every necessary material thing to those who cheerfully give to God. /God sufficiently gives us faith and possessions so that we may abound in every good work. /

/Verses 9-10. /As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

/Verse 9 quotes Psalm 112:9. /When we give to the poor, our righteousness endures forever before God. /The act of giving to God is righteousness for the believer. His righteousness endures forever.

/This person’s soul matures, and the mature soul endures forever. /Verse 10 tells us that God multiplies our seed 30, 60, and 100 times. We receive seed and food to eat when we plant the grain.

/This applies to spiritual things. /Whoever plants spiritual things will receive in abundance the spiritual things from God, and he abundantly bears the fruit of righteousness.

/Third, verses 11-15. /Give glory to God with thanksgiving. /God gave the believers in Corinth wealth, and he gave them a heart that gives generously. /Therefore, they gave generously, and those who receive these gifts gave thanks to God.

/Verse 12 mentions “the ministry of this service,” which refers to giving material aid to other people. /When we give to other people, we not only supply them with their needs. /Because of our giving, we see the overflowing in many thanksgivings to God in many people.

/Verse 13 says, “By their approval of this service.” /“Service” also refers to giving generously. /Giving plentifully to help others is proof of obedience and sincere belief in the gospel of Christ.

/It is proof of serving all people. /Then, God receives the glory and many people give thanks to God. /The believers in Corinth gave to help other believers.

/The believers who received help prayed for the believers in Corinth. /Therefore, by the grace of God given to the church of Corinth, they had a greater longing for them.

/The believers in Corinth gave plentifully because of the great grace of God. /It is God’s great grace for us to give to others and /to help do God’s work. /For this reason, we must give thanks to God.

/We will continue with chapter 10. The title of the chapter is “Being Awake.” /First, Paul’s gentleness and boldness. Verses 1-2. /Second, verses 3-11. The weapons of our warfare. /Third, verses 12-18. Boasts and commendations.

/Verses 1-2. Let us read. /I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!— I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh.

/Those who slandered Paul said this about Paul. /They said Paul is humble when he is face to face with them, but bold toward them when he is away. /Verse 10 also talks about these things.

/Verse 10 says, “For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account.”” /Paul defends himself concerning this. /Chapters 11 and 12 talk specifically about this matter.

/Paul says he entreats them by the meekness and gentleness of Christ. /The believers in Corinth, deceived by those who slandered Paul, had misunderstandings about Paul. /But Paul was not that kind of person.

/Paul did not directly attack those who slandered him. /He entreated them by his meekness and gentleness. /Other people criticize Paul for walking according to the flesh.

/Others accuse Paul of belonging to the body and walking according to his greed. /However, Paul does not give in to their false accusations, but he becomes more bold.

/Verses 3-11. We learn about the fight that we fight. /The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh. /It says, “But have divine power to destroy strongholds.”

/The word “flesh” in verse 4 refers to the flesh of the weak and corrupt nature of mankind. /Paul was in this flesh, but he did not do things in human ways. /He relied on God alone and worked in his power.

/What do “strongholds” refer to? /This refers to the devil’s camps. /They are the devil’s strongholds. /In today’s time, other religions are the devil’s strongholds.

/During Paul’s time, legalism, ritualism, and philosophy were the devil’s strongholds. /To defeat these strongholds, we must trust in God and work in his power.

/Then what must we fight against? /Verse 5 says, “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God.” /Such things are the forces that are against the gospel. /They are philosophy, religion, and humanism. /All of these things are raised against the knowledge of God.

/Paul fought against these things in faith, and with the power of the gospel and with God’s almighty work, he destroyed them. /Paul went one step further to take every thought captive to obey Christ.

/Because the devil’s forces are in line with human reason and theory, people without faith follow humanism or philosophy. /For this reason, Paul says he only preaches the gospel.

/He only preaches the gospel because in the gospel, there is the power of God that saves those who believe. /The gospel, by the almighty work of God, breaks and defeats humanism.

/At first, the gospel may appear weak and foolish, but in it is the power of God. /Also, because the Holy Spirit is at work, the chosen people return before God. /This is the gospel’s victory.

/Verse 6. /being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

/Among the believers in Corinth, some people were still disobedient to Paul’s teachings. /Even still, Paul left those who were disobedient alone, and he waited while he continued to give them proper teaching.

/He was ready to punish those who were disobedient until the end. /Those who are disobedient to the end are people who follow false prophets. /Such people must be punished in order for the church to stand upright.

/Verse 7. /Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we.

/The verse says, “Look at what is before your eyes.” /Because the believers in Corinth only looked at Paul’s appearance, they were confused. /They say that in real life, Paul’s appearance was unattractive and weak, and he was not a good speaker.

/Paul had an eye disease, which probably wasn't good to look at. /Galatians 4:13,14. /If Paul was well spoken and had made himself well known, he probably would have been popular.

/However, if people look at his appearance, they do not follow Paul, but they follow false teachers. /The important thing is that Paul had the work of God and the work of the Holy Spirit.

/God himself appointed Paul, held onto him, and worked with him. /Whoever does not see these things but sees only the appearance is spiritually blind.

/Verse 7 says, "If anyone is confident that he is Christ's." /This refers to the class of people who followed false teachers. /If they believe that they belong to Christ, then they must believe that the Apostle Paul to a greater extent belongs to Christ.

/Verse 8. /For even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be ashamed.

/The "authority, which the Lord gave" refers to the Paul's rights as apostle. /Apostles have the authority to guide and govern believers. /False teachers, in their own authority, destroy the church and the faith of believers.

/However, the authority of the true apostle builds up the church and the faith of believers. /Therefore, Paul does not rebuke the believers in Corinth to destroy them, but he does it to bring them to repentance so they may build up their faith.

/In this sense, Paul says he is not ashamed of boasting a little too much of his authority as apostle. /The reason is God gave him the ministry of an apostle, which is the glorious ministry of the gospel.

/This ministry builds up the church and the faith of believers. /It is the ministry of saving the lives of many people.

/Verse 9. /I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters.

/Earlier, Paul said he is not ashamed in boasting too much of his authority as apostle. /But because he didn't want to frighten with his letters the believers in Corinth, he did not boast.

/In verse 10, those who oppose Paul say that Paul's letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak. /For example, in his letters, Paul writes, "You will be punished if you do to repent," but the people slander Paul by saying Paul is weak in his bodily presence and will be unable to do anything.

/Concerning this, Paul speaks. /He says he will do in person what he writes in his letters. / Paul isn't someone who goes back and forth. /He just wanted the believers in Corinth to not be lured by false teachers.

/Verses 12-18 are about boasts and commendations. /A characteristic of false prophets is they commend themselves. /They assess themselves and compliment themselves.

/They also think they are right in their thoughts, so they walk around commending themselves. /To them, they themselves are the standard. /Luke 16:15. /Jesus is our standard. /The Lord's commendations are true commendations.

/How does the Lord see us when he looks at us? How will we look when we stand before God's judgment throne? /We need to make this our standard.

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/In verse 13, Paul says he does not boast beyond limits. /He only worked in the area in which God allowed him to work. /Paul also considered the fruits of his work as his achievements.

/The achievement of his works reached Corinth. /However, false teachers boasted in the work of others as their own. /This is stealing. /If someone boasts beyond his limits, he is a liar and a hypocrite.

/Verse 14. /For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ.

/Paul is not overextending himself when he, with interest for the church, writes letters or sends people to the church of Corinth. /He isn't overextending because the church of Corinth was raised up because Paul preached the gospel there.

/Thus, Paul has the right to visit the church, and he has the responsibility to encourage the believers there to make them stand upright. /The church of Corinth is within Paul's limits.

/However, false prophets go beyond their limits to steal the work of others.

/In verse 15, /Paul says he does not boast in the labor of others as his own like the false teachers do. /Paul wants the faith of believers in Corinth to grow.

/He also wants them to correctly understand the grace and the apostolic authority that are given to Paul. /When this happens, the church of Corinth will receive grace and grow.

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/Verse 17 says, ““Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”” /To boast in the Lord means five things. /First, it is to boast in the Lord, and /second, it is to boast in all the grace he has given. /Third, it is to speak only the word of God.

/Fourth, it is to boast in all the works of the Lord. /Fifth, it is to boast in the Lord’s work of life.

/Verse 18. /For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

/It is most important to be commended by the Lord. /False prophets commend themselves, /but true servants of the Lord do not commend themselves. /True servants are commended by the Lord.

/This concludes the 20th lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /Thank you.