

5) They gave themselves first 'to the Lord v5

'A Generous Church'

All Souls 22nd May 2013

6) Realistic self-assessment v8

2 Corinthians 8

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² In the midst of a very 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 Lord's people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶ So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷ But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you^[a]—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 sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

7) They knew the generous grace of Christ v9

Introduction

1) Delighted with Christ

2) The time-line of our life

3) Generosity across the breadth of life

The Merry Macedonians!

1) God's Grace v1 (Past Grace and Future Grace)

2) 'Joyful' and 'Generous' in the midst of suffering v2

Generosity is always costly at some level!

Why can generosity sometimes appear to rob us of Joy?

3) Sacrificial self-determined giving v3

4) A passion for generosity v4 (They pleaded/the grace of giving)