

**“WHEN THE PEOPLE ‘HAD A MIND TO WORK’ AND ‘GAVE TOO MUCH’ BECAUSE THEY
FIRST ‘GAVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD’ ”!**

TEXTS: Exodus 35:30 – 36:7; Nehemiah 4:6; 2Corinthians 8:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

1. An important element of Christian service is that of "giving"... - 1Corinthians 16:1-2
2. Members of the church support the church.
3. Our goal is to follow the pattern of the New Testament in everything, including how we finance the Lord's work.
4. Yet the apostle Paul, seeking to inspire the Corinthians to abound in the grace of giving, used the example of the Macedonians - 2Corinthians 8:1-7

I. WHO WERE THE CHURCHES OF MACEDONIA?

A. THE CHURCH AT Philippi (Acts 16)

B. THE CHURCH AT Thessalonica (Acts 17)

II. WHAT CHARACTERIZED THEIR GIVING?

- 1) Sacrificially
- 2) Joyfully
- 3) Voluntarily
- 4) Persistently
- 5) Themselves

CONCLUSION:

What kind of givers are we?

- a. Those who give out of compulsion, with a grudging obligation?
- b. Or those who like the Macedonians "beg" for the opportunity to help?

What kind of "recipients" are we?

- a) Christ became poor that we might be rich (2Corinthians 8:9).
- b) "*Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*" (2Corinthians 6:1-2)