

## SERMON SUMMARY

<b>Date:</b> October 15, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
<b>Preacher:</b> Rev. Donald Lawrence	<b>Reference:</b> 2 Corinthians 8: 1-15
<b>Topic:</b> Stewardship Is Seeking Increase...In Resource For The Church	

The time when this portion of scripture was written represents a period of reconciliation in the Corinthian church. After overcoming much, Paul was now encouraging them to be good stewards. In this portion, Paul was urging the kind of gift that was:

- ✘ Praiseworthy
- ✘ Passes the test
- ✘ Is a performance of pledge
- ✘ Promotes unity

Paul in verses 1-7 seem to be speaking of commendable giving. Giving has the ability to provide empowerment, especially when it is done through the grace of God as suggested by verse 1. Commendable giving also speaks of the idea of example demonstrated through:

- Generosity of the heart (verse 2)
- Going beyond ability (verse 3)
- Godly interest (verse 4)
- Giving of ourselves first to God (verse 5)

Giving also addresses the notion of encouragement through:

- Going of servant to God (verse 6)
- Guidance of the Apostle (verse 7)

These first seven verses suggest that there is a level of excellence in giving, which demands of us to delight in the Lord. We are called to be thankful people.

Verses 8-9 address the comparison of the gift, as seen through:

1. Sincerity of others (verse 8)
2. Sacrifice of Christ (verse 9)

These verses are a call for evaluation in giving, which requires discernment in the Lord. We are called to be tried people.

In verses 10-12, Paul looks at the completion of the gift, which he suggests requires three things:

1. Match desire with action (verse 10)
2. Match start with finish (verse 11)
3. Match willingness with ability (verse 12)

This is call to be earnest in giving which demands of us to be dedicated to the Lord. We are called to be truthful people.

In the final three verse of this portion of scripture, the complimentary gift is examined, as Paul points out the:

- Purpose in writing (verse 13)
- Partnership in wealth (verse 14)
- Parity in worth (verse 15)

This is a call to equality in giving, which demands of us to have dignity in the Lord. We are people called to togetherness.

When the members of the church first commit themselves to the Lord, it is easier to find resources to fulfill their calling. We need to present to God that which is well pleasing in His sight and so see the full salvation of God.

