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Reason for Boasting

2Corinthians 8:6-24

Generosity on the part of the Macedonian church—used to inspire Corinthian believers-- to follow thru w/ a commitment made a year earlier—in support of Church in Jerusalem who had fallen on hard times. Paul continues to exhort Corinthian believers to do what they said they'd & Paul's boasted in.

6 Consequently we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.

So, if you have been hearing what I've been saying.... Exhorted Titus to follow thru w/ what you Corinthians said you are willing to do—**offering**—a work of God's grace in you--Christ likeness

Grace for Grks --beauty, strength, favor, goodness, health—Now attributes of Christ in you. Corinthians knew & loved Titus as from his 1st coming so Paul commissions him again. He began the work he wanted to complete it. Wisdom for any work of God, right tools for specific job—disposition, gifting, calling – **not use pipe wrench change watch battery or hammer swat fly on mirror**

7 But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also.

7 Paul seeks to motivate Cor church –Praise first then exhortation- commends before persuades You are not lacking in any gift **1Cor 1:7**. You exceed, are over & above what is expected (**Jason, Bert, Mike**). Paul commend their spiritual gifts--now abound in practical work of grace giving —**Charis**-kindness **Proverbs 19:22 "What is desirable in a man is his kindness.**

8 I am not speaking this as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also.

8 Not using authority as apostle-**command**—intimidate, throw weight around. Authoritarian is usually a selfish, insecure person. Paul appeals.

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Proving is testing by example of diligent, quick responding Macedonians—so you to reveal your true self, your sincere, genuine love.

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Macedonians a good example but the great example is Jesus. *Know* by experience, learned—some present at cross—saw grace in person of Jesus. Gods Riches At Christ Expense—Rich in heaven w/ Father, In need of nothing—Became poor for us

Phil 2:5-11 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A Russian nobleman along w/ his longtime devoted servant made their way home across the frozen tundra of Russia by dogsled. They had traveled many miles over the barren wasteland & were half way home. The servant spotted something that brought terror to both them. In the distance, a mile or two behind a large pack of wolves had caught their scent & was in hot pursuit. They cracked the whip, screaming at the dogs, pushing them on faster & faster to outdistance the wolves. To no avail, the wolf pack closed the gap, until only a 100 yards separated them, then 50, 20, 10. Their red eyes glowed like coals out of hell, their yellow fangs snarled, menacing growls bellowed from deep w/in. There was no hope of escape. Suddenly, unexpectedly the servant threw himself off the back of the dogsled. The onrushing wolves converged & stopped, tearing the servant to pieces while the master escaped. Was this perfect love? Partially but not totally! If it were Gods kind of love the master would have thrown himself off the dogsled to save the servant. Unheard of? But that is what Jesus did for us.

Jesus threw himself off sled--**born** in someones stable, **born** into poverty, **died** criminals death, **buried** in another man's tomb—...so that we be **rich** in love & favor w/ God, **rich** in God's blessings & promise of new life, **rich** in hope of eternal life, heirs of K of God—Our reason to look out for others.

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10 And I give my opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do this, but also to desire to do it. 11 But now finish doing it also; that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability.

*Opinion--counsel, judgment: Follow thru w/ what you committed to. It's profitable for advancement of God's work in you--you first to do & desire to do so now finish it. You were ready--wished & willed to do it so because you have the means, follow thru complete it Your yes be yes **Matt 5:37 Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.'** Anything beyond this is from the evil one. NLT*

12 For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a man has, not according to what he does not have. 13 For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of equality

Readiness-if you are eager to do, prompted by Holy Spirit—willing disposition. Using wisdom—not beyond reasonableness(give what don't have for comfort of others that do have) tv evangelist-go borrow, get a loan, dip into retirement, SS but give to ministry or we go off the air—Charlatans, imposters, frauds, worthless shepherds....depart from me I never knew you

14 at this present time your abundance being a supply for their want, that their abundance also may become a supply for your want, that there may be equality; 15 as it is written, "HE WHO gathered MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO gathered LITTLE HAD NO LACK."

You Corinthians have been blessed financially w/ material things and it can profit the saints in Jerusalem and their abundance spiritually is a supply for your benefit—for you to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

In my shaping room w/ Chuck's teaching tapes .65 cents each bro backslide and gave me his tapes

Ex 16 Manna illus-all families went out each morning--feeble not able to gather enough physically strong able to gather more than enough. **George developer on property. Chuck jointly owned property.**

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16 But thanks be to God, who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus. 17 For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he has gone to you of his own accord.

Paul commends and commissions Titus to carry the offering. He had the same heart, not because Paul convinced him but Holy Spirit prompted him.

We can talk people into doing things for God and the ministry but it will be only temporary and limited—they can be talked out of--fragile—work of the flesh. But when God prompts, He gives vision & want-to's that are lasting

18 And we have sent along with him the brother whose fame in the things of the gospel has spread through all the churches; 19 and not only this, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and to show our readiness,

Don't know who this is--can speculate Luke, Apollos, etc but no name w/ good reputation. We may never make the pages of history or be known on earth for what we do for God but our reputation in heaven is what counts.

Trusted by Paul and the churches *Pr 22:1 A good name is to be more desired than great riches, Favor/esteem is better than silver and gold.*

20 taking precaution that no one should discredit us in our administration of this generous gift; 21 for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Precaution arrange or hold aloof from evil minded men who tarnish reputations—put out a hit piece (web). Paul concerned w/ integrity of the ministry when it comes to finances. There needs to be careful oversight.

Paul doesn't say *just trust me*...He' not like one notorious politician who said of a piece of legislation concocted in secret *"We have to pass the bill, so that you can find out what is in it"*

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Others are w/ & around Paul. CCH administrators Ed, Earl, Ken—Board of directors Me, Dino, Ed, Fabian, Jake—I see what they see—yearly oversight & filing w/ government w/ independent CPA Ladaudio & Assoc

22 And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things, but now even more diligent, because of his great confidence in you.

Commends another no named brother—tested & trusted--confident of integrity, honesty & faithfulness—caution is used

Pr 25:19 Like a bad tooth and an unsteady/lame foot is confidence in a faithless man in time of trouble. Pr 25:13 NIV Like a snow-cooled drink at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to the one who sends him; he refreshes the spirit of his master.

23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brethren, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ.

Partner koinonos companion, sharer in the ministry, fellowship, mutually belonging and co laborer in the things of the Lord. Ambassadors sent on mission for glory of God to praise & honor Him.

24 Therefore openly before the churches show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.

Show by practice the evidence of your love by doing what you first started to do and now complete it. An open celebration before the churches of you following thru & proof of our boast in you. I recommend CC—glow or gloom

1Cor 13:1 If I speak w/ the tongues of men & of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have the gift of prophecy, & know all mysteries & all knowledge; & if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, & if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind, & is not jealous; love does not brag & is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices w/ the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails;