

**Series:** A Glorious Grace: Generosity and Grace

**Message:** Abounding Grace

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

**Teacher:** Bob Cargo

**Dates:** 14/15 October 2017

## **II Cor. 8:1-9 NIV**

<sup>1</sup> And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

<sup>2</sup> In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

<sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own,

<sup>4</sup> they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

<sup>5</sup> And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

<sup>6</sup> So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part.

<sup>7</sup> But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

<sup>8</sup> I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

### 1. Jesus' Story

Riches to Poverty

A Story of Grace Given

John 17:5

<sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

John 17:24

<sup>24</sup> "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

John 1:1-3

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

## 2. Our Story, Part One

Poverty to Riches

A Story of Grace Received

A New Record

A New Heart

A New World

Romans 8:32

*<sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

## 3. Our Story, Part Two

Out of Poverty

Abounding Grace / Born of Grace

1. Sacrificially
2. Generously
3. Supernaturally
4. Voluntarily
5. Eagerly
6. Sincerely

*"The grace of God must be owned as the root and foundation of all good things in us or done by us at any time."*

Matthew Henry

*"God's grace is given freely and undeservedly, but not without intent and implications. We dare not try to privatize or domesticate the significance of God's grace. We have been called into a dynamic love affair---one that gives more than we could have ever hoped and demands more than we would freely give. To receive God's grace in Christ is to be brought into a revolutionary reign, not ushered into a quiet rest home! God's love is as disruptive as it is delightful, as demanding as it is delicious! God loves us exactly as we are today, but he loves us too much to leave us as we are and where we are."*

Scotty Smith, The Reign of Grace