

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 02/12/2012

Title: "A Lasting Partnership"
Redemption Church Send-off Service

Text: 2 Cor. 8:1-15
Preacher: Carlos Griego

The Context

- In last week's sermon, Ryan gave a great summary of really the whole book of 2 Corinthians: "Ever-increasing glory alongside ever-present weakness."
- The Corinthian church, which was probably a more affluent church, had begun a work of providing and partnering with the church in Jerusalem. However, their generosity had begun to wane. Paul wants them to complete the efforts they began. So, he tells them about the Macedonians who were not as well off, but partnered and gave to help the church in Jerusalem and did so with fire and passion.

The Giving

- They gave in ways that were extravagant, not in how much, but in the way they were doing it: "Beyond their means," "Begging to take part."
- Paul calls this an "act of grace", it is something given by God, that is overflowing out of the Macedonians. He wants to see this "act of grace" continue and overflow into the lives of the Corinthians.

The Motivation

- The gospel motivated the Macedonians to give as they did. Giving is not about a budget, it is always about the heart. When Jesus talked money he always related it to the heart.
- Paul is putting the generous grace of God in the gospel as our motivation. Jesus, who was rich in heaven, left it so that he could give us salvation, and he did it by giving us himself. That generosity is what must resonate in our hearts.
- Gospel Generosity is not motivated by guilt, greed or duty, it is and has to be motivated by Jesus, otherwise it will not last as an act of grace. Guilt will last until your not guilty. Greed will last until the return is not as expected. Duty will last only up until we think we are done with it. However as we have the gospel before us, giving will last as an act because it won't be about the money but about the gospel, and using money, time and energy towards His work.
- We do this by going to the Word to see Jesus, to see His love and grace towards us.

Sample Questions

- At the beginning of his sermon, Carlos mentioned a number of Scriptures that he came to grips with here at DSC (Isa. 6:1-4; Ro. 11:36; 2 Cor. 5:21). What truths about God/Scriptures serve as mile markers in your Christian life?
- What is your testimony of God's grace to you in Christ?
- When have you asked others their testimony, story of how they were saved? What did you learn?
- Is giving something you have to do or get to do? If it is a begrudging matter in our Christian life what is the matter of first importance in our repentance? (Reveling in the Gospel revealed in Scripture, reading the Bible, etc.)
- How can we pray for Redemption Church this week, this year?