

**Wesley Wright**

**Lighthouse Bible Church**

**Sunday, May 31, 2026**

# **2 Corinthians 8:1-5**

**Title: Philanthropy from the poor**

**Notice the following: 1) they gave freely  
2) they gave above their means and 3)  
they understood the value of service to  
the brethren.**

**The Macedonians were impoverished.  
They gave freely anyway for the sake of  
other saints, and Paul praised them for  
doing so.**

**Paul was familiar with the people of  
Macedonia: Acts 16:4-11, Acts 19:13-22**

**What's the application for us? We should also give freely. There's no fixed amount to giving, and no NT commandment that believers tithe.**

**Here's a reminder about where tithing  
was mandated for the people of Israel,  
and there's no NT equivalent: Leviticus  
27:30-34**

**The people of Israel did not assure the  
welfare of the neediest among them, and  
God was unhappy as a result: Isaiah  
10:1-6**

**Remember what Jesus Christ said about  
the poor: John 12:1-8**

**Notably, the Macedonians also gave above their means. Affliction was no excuse — they gave anyway and volunteered to do so.**

**David was afflicted and yet recognized  
his situation as good one: Psalm  
119:66-72**

**Remember the widow Jesus praised,  
who gave all that she had into the  
treasury: Mark 12:41-44**

**God gave liberally to us, remember:**

**John 3:14-18, Romans 8:26-32**

**Outside of giving freely, what else can we learn from the Macedonians? They understood their obligation of service to the saints generally.**

**Meeting the needs of the saints is an  
obligation we all have.**

**Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 10:35-43**

**The gifts the apostles receive were to be  
used in service to others: Matthew  
10:1-8; Acts 3:1-8**

**Paul used resources from the people of  
Macedonia to help serve others:  
Romans 15:20-27**

**Remember that the people of Israel  
wanted for nothing: Exodus 16:11-18**

**Paul praised the Macedonians for their giving above their means even amid severe persecution. How open is your heart to others in need? In what ways are you contributing?**

**The Macedonians also understood that their giving was in service to others.**

**What we do essentially is serve one another, and we should do so gladly.**

**Corinth's readers were in a much different situation than their counterparts in Macedonia, which helps color Paul direction(s) to them. We'll address that next week, Lord willing.**