



SHAPED BY THE CROSS

A JOURNEY THROUGH 2 CORINTHIANS

Sept 19, 2021

SCRIPTURE

16 But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. 17 For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest he is going to you of his own accord. 18 With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel. 19 And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our goodwill. 20 We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, 21 for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man. 22 And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often tested and found earnest in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you. 23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. 24 So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.

2 Corinthians 8:16-24 (ESV)

SUMMARY

How we steward resources as a local church really, really matters. Our stewardship is a direct reflection of our desire to honor and worship the Lord as well as to demonstrate fiscal integrity in the sight of people inside and outside the Church. All of us are accountable to steward God's gifts with faithfulness and integrity. 2 Cor. 8:16-24 provides Paul's example and biblical guidance in aiming at what is honorable in the sight of God and man.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What has this life group (or study group) come to mean to you?
2. Read 2 Cor. 8:16-17. Why is Titus so eager to travel to see the Corinthians? What connection has he had with them previously? (2 Cor. 7:5-9).
3. Read 2 Cor. 8:18-19. What has made this other brother famous? What is the "act of grace" that will be carried out?
4. Read 2 Cor. 8:20-21. Why is Paul so concerned with sending a team to collect the Corinthian's offering?
5. Read Proverbs 10:9; Luke 16:10-13; 1 Peter 2:9-12. What do these passages contribute to a biblical understanding of honorable stewardship?
6. What is at stake in the sight of God when it comes to financial stewardship? What is at stake in the sight of others?
7. What are your takeaways personally from this passage on honorable stewardship?