

**Rolling Hills Community Church**  
**“A Season of Thanks and Giving” Series**  
**December 31, 2006**

**Giving Intentionally**

**2 Corinthians 8:1-12**

Vs. 1

*“And now brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.”*

- Paul begins not with the generosity of the churches, but with the generosity of our God. Grace is another word for generosity. Our gracious God is a generous God, and He is at work within his people to make us generous as well.

Vs. 2

*Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.”*

- Notice the three sources that contributed to the outpouring of Macedonian generosity:
  - Their severe trial
  - Their overflowing joy
  - Their extreme poverty

Vs. 3-5

*“For I testify that they gave as much as they were able and even beyond their ability. Entire on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in their service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will.”*

- The Macedonians gave even beyond their ability. And they pleaded for the privilege of sharing in this service to God.
- Truly, they gave themselves first to the Lord, which is where Paul begins—with the grace of God in the Macedonian churches:  
Christian generosity is fundamentally an outflow of the generosity of God.

Vs. 7

*“But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”*

- The Corinthian believers excelled in so much, and now Paul challenges them to also be leaders in giving
- Overall, Paul says one’s giving reflects one’s devotion to Christ

**So, how do we live a life of “thanks and giving” going forward into 2007?**

- Go into the future without guilt from the past
- Intentionally make Christ the focus each morning
- Live below your means
- Learn to be content whatever your circumstances

*“...remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35*