

# A Biblical Conversation with 2 Corinthians 7:16-8:7



**book of faith**  
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Lutheran  
Theological  
Reading

Devotional  
Reading



Historical  
Reading

Literary  
Reading

# Devotional Reading

➤ **Lectio Divina**

➤ **T.R.I.P. - Thanks, Regret, Intercession,  
and Purpose**

➤ **Catechemenate Bible Study Methods**

➤ **Kaleidoscope Institute –**

*Eric Law --Building Inclusive*

*Community Around Holy Scriptures*

# Devotional Reading Principles

- Listen slowly and carefully.

**Attend to the text.**

- Develop a habit
- Don't need expert in the room.  
Experts can get in the way.
- No right answers.
  - *Worst Question:*

***What do you think?***

## Devotional Questions

➤ What word or phrase strikes you ?

➤ What images, stories or memories come to mind?

• *When were you asked to be generous?  
What reasons were given?*

➤ What confuses or challenges you?

— *Who are the most generous,  
those who have more*

*or those who have less?*

➤ What is God calling us to be, do, tell?

## 2 Corinthians 7:16-8:7

<sup>7:16</sup> I rejoice, because I have complete confidence in you.

**8:1** We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; <sup>2</sup> for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup> For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, <sup>4</sup> begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints--<sup>5</sup> and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, <sup>6</sup> so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. <sup>7</sup> Now as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you-- so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

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- What word or phrase strikes you ?
- What images, stories or memories come to mind?
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- What confuses or challenges you?
  - *Who are the most generous, those who have more or those who have less?*
- What is God calling us to be, do, tell?

# Historical Questions

- 
- What insights from history would be helpful to know in order to hear, read, study or understand this passage more accurately?

*Websites:* [textweek.com](http://textweek.com);  
[workingpreacher.org](http://workingpreacher.org); [enterthebible.org](http://enterthebible.org)

- 
- 
- Do we know anything about the author?  
Who wrote this letter?

- 
- 
- Do we know when this letter was written, where it was written from, and where it was written to?



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## NEW TESTAMENT: 2 CORINTHIANS

RELATED PERIODS: PAUL'S LETTERS

SUMMARY

OUTLINE

BACKGROUND

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ADD TO MY BOOKS & NOTES

### SUMMARY

Paul's relationship with the Corinthian congregation has deteriorated. In 2 Corinthians, the apostle seeks to rebuild his relationship with the Corinthians, to defend his own integrity as a trustworthy and competent servant of Christ, and to



### RESOURCES

#### PASSAGES (12)

2 Corinthians 1:3-7  
Affliction and Consolation  
Shared

2 Corinthians 1:12-22  
God Is Faithful

## When Was It Written?

After Paul had left Corinth and was living and working in Ephesus (see 1 Corinthians 16:8), he had a letter exchange with the Corinthians. First Corinthians is left from that exchange. At the end of 1 Corinthians, Paul writes that he expects to visit Corinth. At the beginning of 2 Corinthians, Paul speaks of being reluctant to make "another painful visit" (2 Corinthians 2:1). It seems likely, then, that 2 Corinthians was written within several months of 1 Corinthians, after the visit alluded to in 1 Corinthians 16:5-7. All of this probably took place in the early 50s.

What about the original context would you like to know?

## Historical Reading Exercise

If you were writing the notes for a Study Bible for this passage, at which points would you put a note?

Example: Ruth 1:1 In the days when the judges\* ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab\*\*, he and his wife and two sons...

*\* when judges ruled -- prior to kings, Israel was ruled by Judges. In the Book of Judges which precedes Ruth, things go badly*

*\*\* Moab -- a bitter enemy of Israel,  
see Deuteronomy 23:3-6*

## 2 Corinthians 7:16-8:7

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# Corinth, in the Region of Achaia



Map from [enterthebible.com](http://enterthebible.com)



# Macedonia, including Philippi and Thessalonica



What is the relationship of churches in Macedonia and the church of Corinth?

# Who is Titus?



# The Collection

Acts 11:27-30 <sup>27</sup> At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup> One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. <sup>29</sup> The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; <sup>30</sup> this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.



# The Collection

Galatians 2:6-10 <sup>6</sup> And from those who were supposed to be acknowledged leaders (what they actually were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)-- those leaders contributed nothing to me. <sup>7</sup> On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel for the circumcised <sup>8</sup> (for he who worked through Peter making him an apostle to the circumcised also worked through me in sending me to the Gentiles), <sup>9</sup> and when James and Cephas and John, who were acknowledged pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me, they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. <sup>10</sup> They asked only one thing, that we remember the poor, which was actually what I was eager to do.

# The Collection

Romans 15:25-28 <sup>25</sup> At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem in a ministry to the saints; <sup>26</sup> for Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to share their resources with the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup> They were pleased to do this, and indeed they owe it to them; for if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material things. <sup>28</sup> So, when I have completed this, and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will set out by way of you to Spain...

# Literary Reading

- **First Steps on Type**
  - What is a letter? What kind of letter is this one?
- **Literary Context: What comes before and after our passage?**
- **Literary Use of Language: What themes are important?**
  - Exercise: Underline the repeated or important words or phrases. What do you notice?

## Key Words and Repetitions

**Charis** – grace, privilege

**8:1** We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the **grace** (*charis*) of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia...

**8:4** begging us earnestly for the **privilege** (*charis*) of sharing in this ministry to the saints...

## Key Words and Repetitions

**Charis – grace, generous undertaking**

8:6 -7 so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this **generous undertaking** (*charis*) among you.

Now as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you-- so we want you to excel also in this **generous undertaking** (*charis*).

# Key Words and Repetitions

## Perisseia/Perisseuo

8:2 for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their **abundant** joy (*perisseia* literally, “the abundance of their joy”) and their extreme poverty have **overflowed** (*perisseuo*) in a wealth of generosity on their part.

8:7 Now as you **excel** (*perisseuo*) in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you-- so we want you to **excel** (*perisseuo*) also in this generous undertaking.

## Key Words and Repetitions

**\*\*begging us earnestly (*paraklesis*)  
for the privilege (*charis*) of sharing  
(*koinonia*) in this ministry(*diakonia*)  
to the saints—**

**Paraklesis – earnestly,  
with strong appeal,  
lift another’s spirits,  
comfort, console.**

# Key Words and Repetitions

## Paraklesis –

2 Cor 1: <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all **consolation**,<sup>4</sup> who **consoles** us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to **console** those who are in any affliction with the **consolation** with which we ourselves are **consoled** by God. <sup>5</sup> For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our **consolation** is abundant through Christ. <sup>6</sup> If we are being afflicted, it is for your **consolation** and salvation; if we are being **consoled**, it is for your **consolation**, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. <sup>7</sup> Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our **consolation**.



# Key Words and Repetitions

**\*\***begging us earnestly (*paraklesis*)  
for the privilege (*charis*) of **sharing**  
(*koinonia*) in this ministry(*diakonia*)  
to the saints—

**Koinonia – sharing,**  
**generosity, contribution,**  
**fellowship, communion**

# Key Words and Repetitions

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(*koinonia*) in this **ministry**(*diakonia*)  
to the saints—

**Diakonia –**  
**ministry,**  
**service**

# Key Words and Repetitions

begging us **earnestly** (*paraklesis*) for the privilege (*charis*) of **sharing** (*koinonia*) in this **ministry** (*diakonia*) to the saints—

they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. *New International Version*

Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and *take upon us* the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. *King James*

begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, *New American Standard*

They gave offerings of whatever they could—far more than they could afford!—pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians. *The Message*

# Literary Shape

*Exercise:*

*Summarize Paul's argument in this passage. How is he trying to persuade the ones reading the letter to be generous? How does Paul's argument work on us today?*

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# Lutheran Theological Questions

- In what ways do we hear this passage as law?
- In what ways do we hear this passage as Gospel?
- How does this passage show forth Christ?
- How do others hear this text, especially folks from cultures different from my own?
- How does this passage move us from God's salvation to our vocation?

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But we worship Jesus and not the book.



2. What shows forth Christ



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Whether alone or in groups we approach the reading and study of Scripture seeking the Spirit's help and Christ's presence...

