**Sermon Notes – Sunday 20th March**

**We demonstrate our commitment to the church through Financial Giving**

**Welcome and worship**: Sing a song/s of worship that reflect God’s giving of himself for us.

**Word :** What struck you by Wayne’s message on Sunday?

Read 2 Corinthians 8 v1-5.

Paul writing to the church in Corinth uses as an example the gifts given by the Macedonian churches (Philippi, Thessalonica and Beroea).

* What do you find inspiring within these first 5 verses?

We do not know how much they gave, but we do learn about their attitude in giving.

* What was important about the way they responded to this opportunity to give?
* Can you recall a time when giving has brought you immense joy?
* In v.5 what was their first gift? How do you think this affected their financial generosity?
* Does poverty or hardship excuse us from giving? (Luke 21 v1-4). Explain!

Read 2 Corinthians 8 v.7,8. Giving is a natural response of love. Paul did not order the Corinthians to give but he encouraged them to prove that their love was real.

* In what ways does God prove his love for us? How do we prove our love for God?

V10-15 Paul challenged the Corinthian Church to share with the Jerusalem Christians just as the Macedonian churches had done.

* When we share the resources we have that have been entrusted to us by God, what does that do to our attitude to these things?
* V10-15 What principles does Paul give the Corinthian church in deciding how generous to be? (See also 2 Cor 9:6-11)
* What concerns or questions play on your mind as we think and pray through what God may be asking us to give to the ministry and mission of the church?

**Pray for each other**, that we might see an outpouring of sacrificial generosity that will enable us to release the resources entrusted to us and see God’s Kingdom grow.

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