

Sermon Outline

HOW TO ENJOY LOSING MONEY | Nick O'Neil

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

1. "I want you to know about the grace that God has given..." (8:1)
 - a. The gift is _____
 - b. Australia the generous nation?
 - c. The Macedonian's begged to give
 - d. Global generosity

2. Poverty and wealth in the context of the Corinthian Letters
 - a. "The fundamental issues at stake in First Corinthians has become the focal issue in Second Corinthians: what are the marks of a true apostle. As both Paul and the Corinthians agree, to ask this question is to *ask in what form Christ's power appears in the world*: 'You are seeking proof of the Christ who speaks in me' (2 Cor 13:3). The form of Christian life is therewith decided. The life of the apostle is nothing other than the life of a Christian in large screen display."
(Seifrid, M. (2014) *2 Corinthians*. p. xxix. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.)
 - b. "Paul attacks a practical theology, one that legitimates apostolic mission (and thus Christian living) on the basis of the open display of rhetorical skill, deeds of power and ecstatic visions. Whatever their message might have been, *Paul regards the real danger that they present as lying in their implicit theology that God measures God's saving work in Christ by outward marks of success...* Paul battles for the hearts and minds of the Corinthians before all else. It is the Corinthian misunderstanding of the apostle and the Gospel that is finally at the centre of the argument." (Seifrid xxix)
 - c. 2 big issues in 2 Corinthians:
 - i. Is Paul a real apostle even though he appears weak?
 - ii. Therefore, should the Christian life look powerful and successful (and wealthy) or are Christians more likely to appear weak, worldly failures and financially poor?
 - d. Key verses on poverty and wealth: 1 Corinthians 1:7, 26, 28-31; 3:22; 4:8; 2 Corinthians 6:10
 - e. "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. (2 Cor. 8:9)

3. The Macedonians Were Wealthy in Generosity
 - a. Extremely poor

 - b. Sacrifice

4. Why were the Macedonians sacrificially generous?
 - a. Not wealth
 - b. Not pressure
 - c. Joy!
 - d. Therefore...
 - i. Giving is getting to be like Jesus
 - ii. We long to give glory to God
 - iii. First to God, then to his people

5. Excel in the Grace of Giving
 - a. What are we good at?
 - b. Getting practical:
 - i. Budgeting for 2025
 - ii. Give up to give away
 - iii. Investment returns over infinite years
 - iv. Have fun!
 - v. Generosity an essential expense for Christians