



# Daily Reflections

**June 20, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **2 Corinthians 8: 1-9**

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, of the grace of God that has been given to the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, the abundance of their joy and their profound poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

For according to their means, I can testify, and beyond their means, spontaneously, they begged us insistently for the favor of taking part in the service to the holy ones, and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and to us through the will of God, so that we urged Titus that, as he had already begun, he should also complete for you this gracious act also.

Now as you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse, knowledge, all earnestness, and in the love we have for you, may you excel in this gracious act also.

I say this not by way of command, but to test the genuineness of your love by your concern for others.

For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor although he was rich,

so that by his poverty you might become rich.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

In today's text, we see a manipulative side of Paul as he attempted to coax the stingy Corinthians into becoming more generous towards the needs of other Church communities which Paul had founded. Paul did so by pointing out how generous the Macedonian Church had been to less affluent Churches so that the Corinthians might imitate their generosity. While Paul could be both clever and shrewd in his work, building up Christ's Church was always his primary focus.

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## **Food for your Journey**

Many years ago John Something-or-other, a gold prospector, at last believed himself rich. But he was starving amid the shifting dunes of Death Valley, California.

On a scrap of paper John scribbled, "Died rich." Then hugging a small boulder of mica, whose pyrites, resembling gold, apparently had deceived him, John passed away. Decades later, a party of motor tourists discovered the skeleton. An old miner's pick lay near by. A rusty watch was also found, but was not running.

The miner's decision to justify his life with wealth gained only at the end would have been merely sad if it had been real gold that was clutched between his fingers; it becomes tragedy when one realizes that what he had sought and paid for with his life was worthless glitter.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Help me to use the gifts that You have given me to assist the needs of the least in Your Kingdom. Amen.