

Above Reproach – A Proof of Grace

Giving God's Way – Part 3

II Corinthians 8:16-24

Too much focus in church on giving?

- There are twice as many bible verses that talk explicitly about money than about faith and prayer combined.
- Jesus spoke more about riches and wealth than about heaven and hell.
- Approximately 1 verse in 7 (i.e. 14%) deals with money, stewardship, materialism, giving...

We don't give too much attention to these matters – we actually give too little!

Bringing the Text to Light & Life

Above Reproach

Practical instructions about how to handle finances in the church in a way that that is above reproach.

Proof of Grace

‘Giving God’s Way’ demonstrates the reality that God’s grace is truly alive and well in our lives.

Above Reproach – A Proof of Grace – II Cor 8:16-24

Bringing the Text to Light & Life

Background: the ‘collection’

– See I Cor 16:1-4; II Cor 8:6-7, 10-11; Rom 15:25ff.

Bringing the Text to Light & Life

Background

Above Reproach

- Paul took care to not handle the funds himself, giving that over to three trusted brothers instead.
 - Titus, the ‘soul brother’ (vs. 16, 17)
 - A second ‘brother of renown’ (vs. 18, 19a)
 - A third ‘tried and true brother’ (vs. 22)
- Great concern to avoid every hint of impropriety and any cause for suspicion (vs. 20-21).
- The glory of God is the ultimate goal – thus this ‘act of grace’ is of infinite importance (vs. 19b)

Bringing the Text to Light & Life

Background

Above Reproach

Proof of Grace

- ‘Giving God’s Way’ demonstrates the reality that God’s grace is truly alive and well in our lives.
(II Cor 8:24, 7-8)

Get on with the grace of giving! For failure to do so suggests grace that is in vain and salvation that is a delusion.