



And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. (2 Corinthians 8:10-13)

After church, a family was discussing the service over Sunday lunch. Dad commented on how badly the organist sounded. Mom said the choir wasn't prepared with one lady not blending in. Susie complained the pastor was boring and long. Adam listened thoughtfully for a moment, and then he said, "It wasn't that bad of a show for a buck." Ouch! These types of comments reveal an ungrateful attitude.

Paul was complementing the church in Corinth on their attitude toward giving, not just on the act or amount of their giving. In the previous verses, Paul said he was testing the sincerity of their love by their desire to give. Likewise, our love is tested by our willingness in offering generous prayers, funds, time, and talents.

Paul presents two very important points in this passage. Giving is an important part of the Christian's life – the completion of this act is important. But equally important is the willingness and desire to do so. As with most issues in the Christian life, attitudes are as important as actions. Attitudes find their origin in the heart. God is more concerned about the heart than anything else.

Attitudes toward giving reveals values and the sincerity of love for others and God. Ask God to fill your heart with love and motivate you to give in love. The end result will be gifts freely given. During this decision time for a special gift, reflect upon the proper attitude of giving.