

**“FISCAL INTEGRITY FOR
CHURCHES”**
2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5

INTRODUCTION

Paul now looks at how the money is spent in the church. He wants to do what is right in the sight of God. (He was willing to die for the gospel!) Those in ministry should live simply, not above the people. Unfortunately, today there are ministries that allow the pastor to live a lavish life style in regards to clothing, homes, cars, jets and even special favors for family and friends. More often than not, this brings the integrity of the ministry into question! God does care about the ministry in which we serve, and gives guidelines for it. (As a resource to the body of Christ, *MinistryWatch.com* gives some evaluations of the larger, high profile ministries concerning their handling of money).

HANDLED BY OTHERS

In the delivery of this gift to the church in Jerusalem, Paul himself stepped away from it. He wanted the process to be above board. He let someone else reliable handle it for him. If fact, there were 3 people handling this, Titus and 2 others (**v. 16, 18, 22**). Why send 3 people with the funds? (1) If it was Titus only, it wouldn't look good, (2) With 3 it is safer and less possibility of theft, (3) This does not put Titus in a tempting position, and (4) It guards against false accusations. (See **Acts 20:1-4**). These men were diligent (**v.17, 22**) and were a glory to Christ. Those that traveled with Paul were not his buddies, but those appointed by the church. That avoided cronyism. It's important that those who handle the funds of any ministry are trusted people. At our fellowship we have others who handle the money, as well as utilizing the assistance of an outside accounting firm.

GIVE YOURSELF TO HIM!

Paul does remind the Corinthians that they said they *would* give to the church in Jerusalem. He informed them that the Macedonian church would be contributing to that church as well. The generosity of the Macedonians stirred others. Paul had no problem using one church as an example to stir another. It's really a matter of generosity, not obligation. Make sure you follow through on your commitments!

CONSIDER

When it comes to giving there are several motives that people have. (1) Giving out of duty or guilt, (2) A tax write off, (3) To get back something, (4) For recognition, and (5) Out of grace and love. *Giving to Him because He gave to us. The best reason is to give because we are thankful to Him!*

While we think that giving is only something financial, let us not forget that we are to present *the free gift of the Gospel* to others. Be ready to give an answer to those who have ears to hear! **1 Peter 3:15.**

PRAY.....

- * That our Savior would work mightily in Calvary Chapel Academy and the School of Ministry this year.
- * That the Lord would restore lives through the Veterans Day Assembly.
- * That our evening of Thanksgiving in November would be a true time of worship for our body.