

“Candy Bars & Church Offerings”

2 Corinthians 8:9

INTRODUCTION: *Abigail & the ‘Mr. Big’ Candy Bar*

I. ONLY TWO CHAPTERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT TALK ABOUT MONEY (2 Cor. 8 & 9)

- A. The background is famine plagued church in Jerusalem
- B. The context is St. Paul leading a fund drive
- C. The issue is Gentiles helping Jews (note: Acts 15)

II. PAUL TEACHES PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN GIVING

- A. God’s grace is the basis of all our giving (8:1)
- B. Our giving is proportionate & sacrificial (8:3-4)
- C. First we give ourselves to the Lord (8:5)
- D. NOT: “*if we, then God... BUT: because God, then we...*”
- E. No other motivation than Jesus’ sacrifice for us (8:9)
- F. Keep a promise to give (8:10-11)
- G. Care for others by giving (8:13-14)
- H. Joyful giving is an act of worship that brings glory to God (8:19)

CONCLUSION: *The last bite of the ‘Mr. Big’ candy bar...*