# Walking through treacle 10. Use reliable sources

## 2 Co 7:6-9:15

# This section says very little about God, yet it is permeated by His presence

## God comforts the downcast (7:6)

## God loves a cheerful giver (9:7)

## God is able to bless you abundantly (9:8)

## God supplies everything (9:10)

### In between these statements is an example of how that happens through people

# Godly help for maturing Christians

## Give them credit for what they have done (8:6)

## Notice their other gifts (8:7)

## Don’t manipulate with guilt (8:8)

## Let them work it out (8:9)

## Let them retain the problem (8:10)

## Keep everything in the open to preserve integrity

### Using reliable people, letting others check what’s happening

# God and giving

## The good news is that God has made you rich

### The question is ‘What do you want to say with it?’

## If you are rich in grace and love you will want the glory and thanks to go to God

### You will be a cheerful giver

### You will discover God’s economy

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# The Macedonians

### They received grace even though they were persecuted

### They were poor but sacrificially generous

### They asked to help

### They exceeded expectations

### They gave themselves first to God, then to others

## What do these phrases tell you about the ethos of the church?

## How could we as a church become more like them?

### How would we measure how close we are to this standard?

# Paul’s handling of the Corinthians

## In what ways could we use Paul’s method for tackling the problem of the collection in Corinth

### in the workplace?

### In a home with teenagers?

### In church?

## Does Paul say he would be ashamed of them if they had not made the collection?

### What does he say and why?

# God and generosity

## To what extent do you agree that those who sow generously, reap generously?

## Why do you think Paul doesn’t say they should tithe but rather say ‘each should decide’ what to give (9:7)?

### Should all Christians tithe?

## Can we take the attitude that if we give to God we will get more in return?

### Explain your understanding of this general principle

## What are the benefits, according to 9:10-15, of being a generous Christian?