

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Learning Christ from Paul's Care

### Speaker:

Peter Privitera

### Date:

June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 8:16–24

**Theme:** Learn Christlikeness from the Apostle's care for God's people.

**Introduction:** One of the best ways to learn is by watching the example of others. Paul's relationship with the Corinthian church was complicated, but Paul's care for them was consistent and instructive for them and for us. In Second Corinthians 8, Paul speaks of a collection that he was gathering and a collection team he put together. As he talks about the collection team, he is revealing Christlikeness in how he cares for the people of God.

There are five lessons that can be learned from watching Paul:

#### 1. Order Your Loves

- Ordered loves is the biblical principle that we are to love different things to appropriate degrees.
- Paul's primary concern was Jesus Christ and the gospel, and by loving Christ first, Paul had everything else in its proper order.

#### 2. Aim for What Is Honorable

- Paul sought to be honorable by anticipating where temptation and accusation lie (vv. 20–21).
- It takes work to be honorable, but the effort is worth it, so that the gospel does not suffer shame.

#### 3. Be Earnest

- Earnestness is characterized by zeal, enthusiasm, and wholeheartedness.
- Timothy and the other man sent are both described as zealous, and this description is an encouragement to the Corinthians and us to be zealous.

#### 4. Gain Fame for Gospel Things

- The man sent with Timothy is famous, but his name is not given.
- He is famous "in the gospel," the kind of fame all Christians should seek after.

#### 5. Give Proof of Your Love

- By asking the Corinthians to give proof of their love (v. 24), Paul is telling them to put their faith to work.
- Our good works flow out of the faith we have in Jesus.

### Questions:

1. Which of the five lessons from Second Corinthians 8:16–24 stands out to you? What does it look like for you to apply it in your life?