

THE *Macedonian* **WAY**

SECURING A STRONG
THRIVING MINISTRY



THE MACEDONIAN STORY:

Macedonia.

Upon hearing this word, most of us would not be familiar with the significance of it. However, this was such an important place and people during Paul's ministry, and it is still an important story for our lives today. God had a plan for this region, so the Holy Spirit led Paul and his team there to spread their Christian message which has impacted generations of people since.

The Macedonian region, which is physically located in the northern province of modern-day Greece, was a significant area for the spread of Christianity during Paul's second missionary journeys because it was the geographic gateway to Europe and the Western world. Some of the most important cities where churches were planted and flourished were in Phillipi, Thessalonica, and Berea.

Many wars over the years and plundering by the Roman authorities at the time made this an impoverished region. However, this did not stop the Macedonians from exhibiting the living power of their flourishing Christian faith. Specifically, the Macedonians of Thessalonica were the model of generosity. Even though Paul was experiencing intense opposition to his preaching there, a resilient group of believers thrived in this area, and they didn't let these challenges deter them from living out their faith.

Their model of generosity and love are still teaching us today. Despite their state of poverty, they gave generously and willingly to their Jerusalem brothers and sisters in Christ, who were over 1,000 miles away and suffering from famine.

By understanding the Macedonians story, we can learn from their display of Christian love and generosity and live it out in our lives just as they did many centuries ago.



WHAT IS THE MACEDONIAN WAY?

This is a new initiative Campus Life is instituting that will allow us to show generosity like the Macedonians. In fact, our own Biblical mission comes from the Thessalonian church which is one of the churches in this area, “Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well” 1 Thessalonians 2:8.

This is a model of giving based on the Macedonian churches explained to us through Paul’s letter in 2 Corinthians 8:2-5.

THERE ARE THREE KEY ELEMENTS TO THE MACEDONIAN GIVING MODEL THAT MIRRORS GOD’S INSTRUCTIONS FOR US.

They gave “according to their means.”

God expects us to give based on what we have. We see this same sentiment shared with us in 1 Cor. 16:2, “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up as he may prosper.”

They gave “beyond their means.”

Giving is meant to be sacrificial. We are to give by what we have, but it should be in proportion so that it is a sacrifice. Another perfect example of sacrificial giving comes from the story of the widow’s offering told in Mark 12:41-44. It is written, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty.”

They gave by “their own accord.”

This simply means they gave voluntarily. We are not to give out of compulsion, but in response to God’s generosity to us. God has always intended for our giving to be freewill. Another beautiful example of this is shared in 2 Cor. 9:6-7 stating, “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

The Bible is full of stories that mirror The Macedonian Way. Let us live out what we read.