

2 Corinthians #19 (Chapter 8)

I. First, Let us Look at Verses 10 - 12

- A. V. 10 – Paul is not commanding them but giving beneficial advice
 - 1. Either advice or giving is beneficial to them – Prov. 19:17
- B. Apparently Corinthians had begun collection, but not pursued it
 - 1. Started “last year” – anywhere from 2 months ago to 2 years
 - 2. Common human problem to begin things and not finish them
 - a. Luke 9:62; Galatians 6:9 – many exhortations to perseverance
- C. Principles in section concerning relationship between willing and doing
 - 1. V. 12-Giving to be accepted by God is to be done willingly (2 Cor. 9:7)
 - a. Giving without true motive has not reward (1 Cor. 13:3)
 - 2. Just willing is not enough if we have the power to also do it
 - 3. Sometimes there are legitimate reasons why we can’t do our will
 - a. David (2 Samuel 7:4 – 16) – Women at Tomb (Luke 24:1 – 10)
- D. Giving is only required according to our ability to give – not beyond
 - 1. So can’t use our not being rich as an excuse not to give

II. Then Let Us Look at Verses 13 - 15

- A. Verses teach a doctrine of giving that relies upon idea of fairness
- B. These verses teach against giving to extent that we burden ourselves
 - 1. Some faith teachings say to give what we do not have (Matt. 19:29)
- C. These verses also teach against the error of communism
 - 1. Some believe this is the ideal condition of church in book of Acts
 - a. Acts 2:44, 45; Acts 4:32 – 35
 - 2. Even if you accept this as normal church doesn’t teach communism
 - a. Teaches that we should see that all needs are met in church
- D. V. 15- Paul quotes from OT to prove this doctrine – Exodus 16:18
- E. Should not give in such a way that we encourage people to sin
 - 1. 2 Thess. 3:10 – it is wrong to discourage a person from working

III. Then Let us Look at Verses 16 – 24

- A. Paul is sending three people with this collection – V. 16 – One is Titus
 - 1. Paul says Titus concern is the result of God putting it in his heart
- B. Second person (“the brother”) has been speculated on since NT times
 - 1. Ideas: Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, Apollos, Mark
 - 2. Most common idea was Luke (Origen, Jerome) Perhaps Titus brother
 - a. Verse 18 – some think reference to writing gospel (Book of Luke)
 - 3. Some say Timothy because of his designation as brother (2 Cor. 1:1)
 - a. But same argument could be made for Apollos (1 Cor. 16:12)
- C. V. 19 – They were “appointed” – Greek “Chosen by raising of hands”
 - 1. V. 23 – They were messengers – not same as the 12 (Phil 2:25)
- D. V. 20, 21- Shouldn’t just do right – but should also appear to do right
 - 1. Church must always act in wisdom (Matt. 10:16) (Rom. 12:17)
 - 2. Should gain favor with men that way (Luke 2:52; Prov. 3:3, 4)
 - 3. Paul was convinced of honesty of all these men (2 Cor. 12:17, 18)
 - 4. V. 20 – Paul is expecting a very generous offering

- Conclusion:** 1) Giving isn’t just about money (Talents, abilities, time)
2) But Giving is about money