

1 **II Corinthians 9**

2 **II Corinthians 9:1-5**

Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you; for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority. Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, you may be ready; lest if *some* Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting. Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which *you had* previously promised, that it may be ready as *a matter of* generosity and not as a grudging obligation.

3 **II Corinthians 9:6-11**

But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. *So let* each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have *sown* and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while *you are* enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

4 **II Corinthians 9:12-15**

For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for *your* liberal sharing with them and all *men*, and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks *be* to God for His indescribable gift!

5 **Administering the Gift**

1 - Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you;

- "Ministering to" -- διακονίας -- *servicing*
- Serving the poor saints in Jerusalem by giving, and serving the brothers who were coming to collect the gift by receiving them in Christian love

6 **Administering the Gift**

2 - for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority.

- The good example of the Christians in Achaia (including Corinth) had encouraged

other churches.

7 **Administering the Gift**

3 - Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, you may be ready;

4 - lest if *some* Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting.

- "Confident boasting" (ὑποστάσει) -- *something placed under something else; foundation, basis, confidence*
- *It is especially embarrassing to fail to live up to a good reputation.*

8 **Administering the Gift**

5 - Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which *you had* previously promised, that it may be ready as *a matter of generosity* and not as a grudging obligation.

- "Ahead of time" -- "beforehand" -- "previously" -- *Paul emphasized the importance of the Corinthians being ready in a timely fashion.*
- "Generous gift" -- εὐλογία -- *blessing*

9 **The Cheerful Giver**

6 - But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

- "Sows" -- giving is likened to sowing seed -- it will produce a harvest.
- "Bountifully" -- ἐπ' εὐλογίας -- *with blessings*

10 **The Cheerful Giver**

7 - *So let* each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

- "As he purposes in his heart" -- a deliberate choice, not by constraint, not by impulse
- "Grudgingly" -- ἐκ λύπης -- *out of sorrow*

11 **The Cheerful Giver**

8 - And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

- "Grace" -- *God's power, through the Holy Spirit, working in the heart of the believer, enabling him to do what pleases God*
- "All grace" -- *All we need -- All the grace the infinite God has to give*
- "Always" -- *every minute of every day of our lives*
- "In all [things]" -- *in every circumstance we ever encounter*
- "All sufficiency" -- αὐτάρκειαν -- *self-sufficiency*

12 **The Cheerful Giver**

9 - As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever."

- Psalm 112:9 -- "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever."

13 **The Cheerful Giver**

10 - Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have *sown* and increase the fruits of your righteousness,

11 - while *you are* enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

- A blessing -- Paul prays that God would provide what the Corinthians would give, that He would multiply its effect, and that He would bless them for it.
- All of this leads Paul and the other believers who know of it to thank God.

14 **The Cheerful Giver**

12 - For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

13 - while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for *your* liberal sharing with them and all *men*,

14 - and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.

- *The Corinthians' giving is not merely for the purpose of meeting the needs of the impoverished believers in Jerusalem but also in order that many persons will be moved to give glory and thanks to God.*
- *It also (v. 14) leads those who are blessed by it to love and pray for those who have given.*

15 **The Cheerful Giver**

15 - Thanks *be* to God for His indescribable gift!

Where shall my wondering soul begin?

How shall I all to heaven aspire?

A slave redeemed from death and sin,

a brand plucked from eternal fire,

how shall I equal triumphs raise,

or sing my great deliverer's praise?

O how shall I the goodness tell,

Father, which thou to me hast showed?

*That I, a child of wrath and hell,
I should be called a child of God!
Should know, should feel my sins forgiven,
blest with this foretaste of heaven!*
--Charles Wesley