

SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND  
HUMILITY OF A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 39

TITLE: THE PURPOSE OF PROSPERITY

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 9:8-15

INTRODUCTION: (1) EL DORADO. WHAT WAS IT?

\* WELL, EL DORADO WAS THE MYSTICAL CITY OF GOLD THAT THE SPANISH CONQUISTADORS, THE SPANISH EXPLORERS WERE LOOKING FOR IN THE 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AND FOR OTHERS SINCE THAT TIME.

\*\* EL DORADO HAS NEVER BEEN FOUND.

\*\*\* BUT THAT HAS NOT STOPPED PEOPLE FROM LOOKING FOR IT. NOW WHY?

\*\*\*\* WELL, THE LUST FOR GOLD SPANS ALL ERAS.

(2) TO POSSESS ANY AMOUNT OF GOLD IGNITES AN INSATIABLE DESIRE TO OBTAIN MORE, ESPECIALLY IN OUR DAY, FOR AS OF THURSDAY, GOLD WAS SELLING FOR \$1726.50 AN OUNCE.

\* AND PEOPLE TODAY PURSUE THEIR OWN EL DORADOS WITH THE RUTHLESS SINGLE-MINDEDNESS THAT CHARACTERIZED THE CONQUISTADORS IN THE 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY.

\*\* YET, FOR THE TRUE FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR PURSUIT SHOULD NEVER BE GOLD, BUT GOD!

\*\*\* BUT SADLY, PROFESSING CHRISTIANS AND **CHURCHES HAVE FALLEN PREY TO THE WORLD'S** RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF GOLD OVER GOD.

\*\*\*\* IN FACT, SOME CHRISTIANS VIEW GOLD OR **WEALTH AS A SIGN OF GOD'S BLESSINGS, AND** THUS CONSIDER FINANCIAL SUCCESS TO BE A QUALIFICATION FOR CHURCH LEADERS AND THOSE WHOM ARE NOT WEALTHY LACK FAITH.

(3) NOW THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS EXAMPLE OF THESE HERETICAL FALSE TEACHINGS AND BELIEFS ARE FOUND IN THE WORD FAITH MOVEMENT OR HEALTH WEALTH AND PROSPERITY GOSPEL.

\* AND THESE FALSE TEACHERS BOLDLY **PROCLAIM THAT GOD'S WILL IS FOR ALL** BELIEVERS TO BE RICH.

\*\* BUT THEY HAVE TO NAME IT AND CLAIM IT TO GET IT. IT IS TO SAY, IF THEY CLAIM RICHES BY FAITH AND SPEAK POSITIVELY OF THEM, THAT VERBAL CONFESSION ITSELF CREATES THE WEALTH.

\*\*\* WORD FAITH FALSE TEACHERS INSIST THAT **GOD IS OBLIGATED TO DELIVER THE BELIEVER'S** REQUESTS.

\*\*\*\* AND THEY ARE SO BIZARRE, THAT THEY REPLACE THE SOVEREIGN GOD OF SCRIPTURE **WITH THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE BELIEVER'S** WILL, WHOM BY FAITH AND POSITIVE CONFESSION MAKE THEMSELVES PROSPEROUS AND WEALTHY.

(4) AND SADLY, THE GOD OF THE WORD FAITH MOVEMENT IS NOT THE GOD OF THE BIBLE. FOR IN ESSENCE, WORD FAITH TEACHING SETS THE INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER ABOVE GOD AND RELEGATES GOD TO THE ROLE OF A GENIE, OR SANTA CLAUS, OR A VALET WHO IS AT THE **WHIM OF THE CHRISTIAN'S WILL. WORD FAITH** BELIEVERS ARE THEIR OWN SUPREME AUTHORITY.

\* FURTHERMORE, WORD FAITH THEOLOGY COMMUNICATES THAT THE SOVEREIGN GOD IS BOUND BY SPIRITUAL LAWS THAT GOVERN HEALTH AND PROSPERITY.

\*\* FOR EXAMPLE, IF WE SAY THE RIGHT WORDS, OR BELIEVE WITHOUT WAVERING, GOD IS FORCED TO RESPOND IN WHATEVER WAY WE DETERMINE.

\*\*\* SO GOD IS NOT LORD OF ALL, FOR HE IS NOT ABLE TO WORK UNTIL WE RELEASE HIM TO DO SO. CREATOR, SUSTAINER, SOVEREIGN GOD IS DEPENDENT ON HUMAN INSTRUMENTS, HUMAN FAITH AND HUMAN WORDS TO GET HIS WORK DONE!

\*\*\*\* IT IS IN YOUR POWER TO RELEASE THE ABILITY OF GOD ACCORDING TO ONE WORD FAITH TEACHER.

(5) AND SOME OF THOSE TEACHERS YOU HAVE HEARD OF ARE BENNY HINN, KENNETH HAGIN, ORAL ROBERTS, RICHARD ROBERTS, KENNETH COPELAND, PAT ROBERTSON, PAUL CROUCH, CREFLO DOLLAR, PAULA WHITE, JOYCE MEYER, ROBERT TILTON AND TO SOME DEGREE JOEL OSTEEN (SOME ARE DEAD AND SOME ARE ALIVE, BUT THEIR TEACHING IS STILL VERY DANGEROUS.)

**\* AND ROBERT TILTON ACTUALLY SAID: "BEING POOR IS A SIN, WHEN GOD PROMISES PROSPERITY. MY GOD'S RICH! AND HE IS TRYING TO SHOW YOU HOW TO DRAW OUT OF YOUR HEAVENLY ACCOUNT THAT JESUS BOUGHT AND PAID FOR AND PURCHASED FOR YOU AT CALVARY."**

**\*\* TILTON SAID: "NEW HOUSE? NEW CAR? THAT'S CHICKEN FEED. THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT GOD WANTS TO DO FOR YOU."**

\*\*\* AND GUESS WHAT? SOME OF THESE FALSE TEACHERS USE OUR TEXT TODAY AS A PROOF TEXT TO TEACH SOME OF THEIR FALSE DOCTRINE LIKE SEED FAITH GIVING.

\*\*\*\* TO ILLUSTRATE THAT RICHARD ROBERTS, THE SON OF ORAL ROBERTS URGED PEOPLE TO SOW A SEED ON YOUR MASTERCARD, YOUR **VISA, OR YOUR AMERICAN EXPRESS. (HE DIDN'T MENTION THE DISCOVER CARD, NOT SURE WHY,)** BUT WHEN YOU SOW A SEED USING THE OTHER CREDIT CARDS, EXPECT GOD TO OPEN THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN AND POUR YOU OUT A BLESSING.

(6) AND THEN HIS FATHER, ORAL, ONCE MAILED **OUT PLASTIC BAGS FULL OF "HOLY WATER"** FROM THE RIVER OF LIFE FOUNTAIN AT ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY.

\* AND THEN TO DEMONSTRATE HOW TO USE THE WATER, HE Poured OUT A BAG OF IT OVER HIS OWN WALLET ON HIS TELEVISION PROGRAM.

\*\* AND THEN FRED PRICE EXPLAINED: **“IF YOU’VE GOT ONE DOLLAR FAITH AND YOU ASK FOR A TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR ITEM, IT AIN’T GOING TO WORK. IT WON’T WORK.”**

\*\*\* AND THEN GOES ON TO SAY, I MAY WANT A **ROLLS ROYCE AND DON’T HAVE BUT BICYCLE FAITH. GUESS WHAT I AM GOING TO GET? A BICYCLE.”**

- THESE QUOTES ARE FROM THE BOOK **“CHARISMATIC CHAOS”** BY JOHN MACARTHUR.

\*\*\*\* NOW MY POINT IS **GOD’S ABILITY TO BLESS** US SUPPOSEDLY HANGS ON OUR FAITH.

(7) THEN DONALD TRUMP, BILL GATES AND WARREN BUFFET MUST HAVE GREAT FAITH.



\* AND ALL HUMOR ASIDE, GOD HAS MADE SOME TRUE BELIEVERS PROSPEROUS IN THE PAST LIKE SOLOMON, JOB AND ABRAHAM. AND GOD HAS MADE SOME BELIEVERS PROSPEROUS TODAY AND I AM THANKFUL FOR THAT, FOR SOME OF THEM **HAVE HELPED THE NEEDY AND CHRIST'S** CHURCH.

\* AND DOES GOD MAKE CHRISTIANS PROSPEROUS FOR THEIR OWN GLORY, THEIR SEED FAITH, THEIR POSITIVE CONFESSION, OR FOR HIS OWN GLORY?

\*\* WELL, THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS, FOR HIS **OWN GLORY. SO WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE FOR** PROSPERITY OR GIVING US ABOVE WHAT WE NEED?

\*\*\* WELL TO BE GLORIFIED AND THAT WE USE SOME OF IT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE POOR AND TO TAKE CARE OF HIS ORDAINED WAY TO FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION, THE LOCAL CHURCH.

**(8) THUS I'VE TITLED OUR STUDY TODAY, THE PURPOSE OF PROSPERITY. AND UNDER THAT TITLE WE'LL LOOK AT 3 POINTS:**

\* NO. 1 THE PROSPERITY, VV. 8-11A; NO. 2 THE PURPOSE, VV. 11B-14; AND NO. 3 THE PRAISE, V. 15.

\*\* AND WITHOUT ANY FURTHER INTRODUCTION, **LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE PROSPERITY.**

I. THE PROSPERITY, (READ V. 8)

A. NOW CONTEXTUALLY REMEMBER GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL HILARIOUS GIVER IN V. 7 AND IF THE CORINTHIANS SOW SPARINGLY TOWARDS THIS OFFERING FOR THE POOR SAINTS OF JERUSALEM, THEY WILL REAP SPARINGLY AND IF THEY SOW BOUNTIFULLY THEY WILL REAP BOUNTIFULLY, V. 6.

\* WITH THAT SAID, ONE OF THE BIGGEST OBSTACLES THAT PEOPLE HAVE TO OVERCOME TO GIVE IS WORRY. WHAT IF SOME EMERGENCY COMES UP? AND THEY DO. WHAT IF I LOSE MY JOB? AND SOME OF YOU HAVE AND WILL.

**\*\* WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY WHEN I CAN'T WORK ANY MORE? OR WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE ECONOMY CRASHES? ETC.**

\*\*\*\* WELL, VERSE 8 REASSURES THE CORINTHIANS AND HOPEFULLY US THAT GOD IS ABLE TO MEET ALL OUR NEEDS.

1. AND PAUL DOES THIS BY USING A FORM OF THE GREEK WORD PAS 5 TIMES IN V. 8 TRANSLATED ALL TWICE, THEN THE WORD ALWAYS, THE WORD EVERYTHING AND THE WORD **EVERY, COMMUNICATING GOD'S GRACIOUS GIVING HAS NO LIMITS, IT'S OFF THE CHARTS.**

\* FOR GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE  
ABOUND TO YOU.

\*\* AND THE WORD ABLE LIT. MEANS POWER.  
GOD HAS THE POWER, HIS POWER IS GREAT, TO  
GIVE GRACE TO THE CORINTHIANS AND US TO  
ABOUND, WITH THE RESOURCES WE NEED TO DO  
HIS WORK, SO THAT, A HINA PURPOSE CLAUSE,  
FOR THE PURPOSE THAT WE HAVE ALL  
SUFFICIENCY IN EVERYTHING, THAT WE HAVE  
ALL THE NECESSITIES TO LIVE AND EVEN MORE.

\*\*\* THAT WE HAVE AN ABUNDANCE FOR EVERY  
GOOD DEED OR WORK.

\*\*\*\* AND PLEASE GET THIS. THE REASON GOD  
GIVES BACK TO THOSE WHO GIVE IS NOT, AS  
PROSPERITY PREACHERS COMMUNICATE, SO  
PEOPLE CAN CONSUME MORE ON THEIR LUSTS -  
NO.

2. GOD SUPPLIES THEM SO THEY WILL HAVE AN  
ABUNDANCE FOR EVERY GOOD DEED.

\* MEANING: THE LORD WILL FULLY SUPPLY GRACE GIVERS, GRACIOUS GIVERS, CHEERFUL GIVERS WITH WHAT THEY NEED TO USE FOR WHAT IS GOOD WORK TO THE HONOR OF THE LORD.

\*\* IT IS TO SAY, OUR GREAT GOD CONSTANTLY REPLENISHES WHAT THEY EXPEND SO THAT THE CYCLE OF GIVING AND MINISTRY TO OTHERS CAN CONTINUE.

\*\*\* GENEROUS GIVERS REAP WHAT THEY SOW **FOR GOD'S GOOD WORK, NOT TO HAVE A ROLLS ROYCE AND A 10,000 SQUARE FOOT HOME AND MORE EXPENSIVE JEWELRY.**

\*\*\*\* **FOR EVERY GOOD DEED IS GOD'S** GOOD WORK, WHICH IN THIS CONTEXT WAS GIVEN TO THE POOR SAINTS IN JERUSALEM.

3. WHICH LEADS US TO VERSE 9. LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 9. NOW VERSE 9 IS A QUOTE FROM **PSALM 112:9 WHICH SAYS: "HE HAS GIVEN FREELY TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER; HIS HORN WILL BE EXALTED IN HONOR."**

\* NOW AS WE CAN SEE IN THIS VERSE, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE PERSON IN THIS PSALM IS PROVED BY HIS CARE FOR THE POOR.

\*\* CONTEXTUALLY IT IS TALKING ABOUT A PERSON WHO FEARS THE LORD, AND THIS PERSON GIVES, THEY SCATTER ABROAD, THEY SOW SEED GENEROUSLY BY GIVING TO THE POOR. AND A RIGHTEOUS PERSON IS ONE WHO FEARS THE LORD AND WILL DEMONSTRATE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS BY RIGHTEOUS DEEDS, AND IN THIS CONTEXT, GIVING TO THE POOR.

\*\*\* AND PAUL USES THIS QUOTE FROM PSALM 112:9 TO REINFORCE WHAT HE SAID IN V. 8, THAT THE PERSON WHO AGAIN FEARS THE LORD AND GIVES TO THE NEEDY WITH AN OPEN HAND, NOT A CLOSED HAND, WILL NOT BE IMPOVERISHED, BUT WILL BE BLESSED BY GOD TO GIVE MORE.

\*\*\*\* AND PAUL REINFORCES THIS TRUTH WITH ANOTHER O.T. QUOTE IN V. 10, LOOK AT V. 10 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 10. NOW V. 10 IS AN O.T. QUOTE **FROM ISAIAH 55:10 WHICH SAYS: "FOR AS THE RAIN AND THE SNOW COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, AND DO NOT RETURN THERE WITHOUT WATERING THE EARTH AND MAKING IT BEAR AND SPROUT, AND FURNISHING SEED TO THE SOWER AND BREAD TO THE EATER."**

\* NOW THE POINT FROM THIS QUOTE FROM THE O.T. USED BY PAUL HERE IN II CORINTHIANS 9:10 IS TO SHOW THAT GOD IS THE ONE WHO PROVIDES THE RAIN AND THE SNOW TO FUNCTION AS HIS RESOURCE TO GERMINATE THE SEED THAT WAS SOWN THAT CAN BE TURNED INTO BREAD SO PEOPLE CAN EAT.

\*\* THEREFORE GOD SUPPLIES THE WATER, THE SEED, AND MAKES IT GROW SO WE CAN EAT.

\*\*\* AND WHEN WE SOW SEED, LIT. GIVE TO THE POOR, GOD MULTIPLIES THE SEED WE SOW, HE MULTIPLIES THE BLESSING BY INCREASING THE HARVEST OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS HERE LIT. MEANS OPENHANDEDNESS, GOOD DEEDS, SO WE SOW MORE BY GIVING MORE TO THOSE WHO HAVE NEEDS.



\*\*\*\* IN OTHER WORDS, GOD WILL PROVIDE FOR THE BELIEVER WHO SOWS SEED BY GENEROUS GRACIOUS GIVING. AND THE RIGHTEOUS ACTIONS OF BELIEVERS IN THIS MATTER OF GIVING WILL YIELD GREAT RESULTS AS THE LIVES OF OTHERS ARE BLESSED.

1. AND THAT BLESSING IS TALKED ABOUT IN THE BEGINNING OF V. 11. LOOK AT V. 11A PLEASE.

D. READ V. 11A. NOW WHAT DOES GOD DO WHEN WE SOW BY GIVING GENEROUSLY TO THE POOR? WE WILL BE ENRICHED, RICHLY FURNISHED, BLESSED IN EVERYTHING.

\* AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

\*\* THE ANSWER IS FOR ALL LIBERALITY, LIT. ALL BOUNTIFULNESS, ALL GENEROSITY.

\*\*\* MEANING: THE WHOLE IDEA TO BE ENRICHED, DOES NOT SIGNIFY THAT GOD SHOWERS US WITH MATERIAL GOODS TO SATISFY OUR SELFISH DESIRES.

\*\*\*\* THE PURPOSE IS NOT NAME AND CLAIM IT TO GET OUR ROLLS ROYCE, FOR THE CONTEXT CLEARLY TEACHES THAT THE ENRICHMENT, THE BLESSING IS MEANT FOR THE PURPOSE THAT WE MAY BE IMMEASURABLY GENEROUS.

1. WE THEN BECOME THE CHANNEL THROUGH **WHICH GOD'S BLESSINGS FLOW TO PEOPLE IN NEED.**

\* WE CAN BECOME MORE LIBERAL GIVERS. WE SOW AND REAP TO GIVE MORE TO THOSE IN NEED, THAT IS THE CONTEXT, NOT SO WE CAN LIVE LAVISH LIFESTYLES, OPULENT LIFESTYLES AS SOME PREACHERS DO IN THE WORD FAITH MOVEMENT WHO BRAG ABOUT THEIR RICH LIFESTYLES.

\*\* BELOVED, THE TRUTH HERE IS, THE GREATER THE GIVING, THE GREATER THE BLESSING, PROSPERITY AND ENRICHMENT, AND THE GREATER THE ENRICHMENT, THE GREATER THE RESOURCES TO GIVE, NOT TO HOLD ON TO, BUT TO LET GO.

\*\*\* SO GOD BLESSES SO WE CAN GIVE, WHICH **LEADS US TO OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE** PURPOSE, THE GOAL WHICH WILL BE THANKSGIVING AND GLORY TO OUR GREAT GOD. LOOK AT V. 11B PLEASE.

II. THE PURPOSE. (READ V. 11)

A. NOW THE NOBLEST GOAL OF ANY HUMAN ENDEAVOR LIKE GIVING IS THAT GOD BE GLORIFIED, THE CHIEF END OF MAN, QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 10:31.

\* AND THE CORINTHIANS GENEROUS GRACIOUS LIBERAL GIVING WAS ALREADY TO PAUL, TITUS AND OTHER CO-LABORERS INVOLVED IN COLLECTING THIS OFFERING PRODUCING THANKSGIVING TO GOD.

\*\* SO THE PURPOSE IS THANKSGIVING GOES TO GOD, HE IS GLORIFIED, NOT AGAIN SO WE FULFILL OUR LUST FOR MORE THAT WE ALL HAVE TO DEAL WITH, BUT THAT THANKSGIVING MIGHT BE RENDERED UNTO THE ONE WHOM BLESSES US WITH THE ABILITY TO GIVE.

\*\*\* BUT NOT ONLY THANKSGIVING BY PAUL, TITUS AND THOSE INVOLVED IN COLLECTING THIS OFFERING, BUT ALSO THANKSGIVING TO THE ONES WHO RECEIVE IT. LOOK AT V. 12 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 12. NOW NOTICE THAT PAUL DESCRIBED THE CORINTHIANS MINISTRY OF GIVING WITH THE WORD SERVICE WHICH REFERS TO PRIESTLY SERVICE IN LUKE 1:23.

\* THUS UNDERSTAND THE OFFERING FOR THE POOR SAINTS AT JERUSALEM WAS NOT A SOCIAL PROGRAM BUT A SPIRITUAL SERVICE TO GOD, A MINISTRY TO HIM AND THE CORINTHIANS.

\*\* AND THIS MINISTRY WOULD FULLY SUPPLY THE NEEDS OF THE SAINTS AT JERUSALEM. AND THAT IS ANOTHER PURPOSE OF THE COLLECTION. IT WOULD SUPPLY TRUE NEEDS FOR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST.

\*\*\* AND THIS OFFERING PAUL ANTICIPATED WOULD BE OVERFLOWING, GOING BEYOND THE JERUSALEM SAINTS NEEDS THAT IT WOULD PRODUCE MANY THANKSGIVINGS TO GOD.

\*\*\*\* TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, THE CORINTHIANS WOULD BE PRAISING GOD WITH A LOT OF THANKSGIVING AS THEIR NEEDS WOULD BE MORE THAN MET. GOD AGAIN WOULD BE THANKED, GOD AGAIN WOULD BE GLORIFIED.

1. BUT EVEN BEYOND THAT PURPOSE, ANOTHER ONE IS GIVEN IN V. 13. LOOK AT V. 13 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 13. NOW THE CORINTHIANS OFFERING WOULD PROVE, GIVE EVIDENCE OF THE GENUINENESS OF THEIR SALVATION.

\* THE CORINTHIANS OBEDIENCE IN GIVING, BEING INVOLVED IN THIS MINISTRY, IN THIS SERVICE TO OTHERS IN GIVING WOULD PROVE, WOULD SHOW THE GENUINENESS OF THEIR CONFESSION OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST IS THE EXPRESSION GIVEN HERE.

\*\* BELOVED THEIR GOOD WORKS IN THIS AREA OF MINISTRY OR SERVICE DID NOT SAVE THE CORINTHIANS, BUT GAVE EVIDENCE THAT THEIR FAITH WAS REAL, IT WAS A CONFESSION OF THEIR TRUE SAVING FAITH, IT WAS A CONFESSION TO THE REALITY OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, THAT THEY TRULY HAD BEEN CONVERTED.

\*\*\* AND AN EVIDENCE OF TRULY KNOWING CHRIST IS GIVING. NO GIVING, NO FAITH. GIVING IS A PROOF OF TRULY KNOWING CHRIST, WHICH THE BELIEVERS AT JERUSALEM INITIALLY MIGHT HAVE BEEN A LITTLE SKEPTICAL OF THE CORINTHIANS, BUT NOT AFTER THEY GAVE LIBERALLY TO THEM. IT SHOWED THAT THEIR FAITH WAS REAL.

\*\*\*\* AND BEYOND THAT IN V. 13, ALL WHO HEARD OF THE LIBERALITY, THE GENEROUSNESS OF THE CORINTHIANS OFFERING WOULD GIVE THANKS TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

1. AGAIN GOD WOULD BE GREATLY GLORIFIED AND THIS WOULD LEAD TO A FINAL PURPOSE OR RESULT IN THE JERUSALEM BELIEVERS. LOOK AT V. 14 PLEASE.

D. READ V. 14. NOW SOME MAY WRONGLY THINK THAT POOR BELIEVERS HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER BELIEVERS THAT ARE BETTER OFF, BUT THAT IS NOT THE CASE.

\* THE PRAYERS OF THE POOR ARE A BLESSING TO THOSE BETTER OFF, INCLUDING THE RICH.

\*\* AND CONTEXTUALLY THE BELIEVERS IN JERUSALEM WOULD BLESS THE CORINTHIANS GENEROSITY BY OFFERING PRAYER ON THEIR BEHALF.

\*\*\* AND KNOWING THAT PEOPLE ARE PRAYING FOR YOU IS A GREAT BLESSING, A RICH **BLESSING THAT MONEY CAN'T BUY. ESPECIALLY** BELIEVERS THAT WALK WITH GOD AND WANT TO GLORIFY GOD LIKE THE POOR SAINTS AT JERUSALEM WHOM FIRST HAND KNEW NEED.

\*\*\*\* BUT NOT ONLY WOULD THEIR FELLOW BROTHERS AND SISTERS PRAY FOR THE CORINTHIANS, THEY WOULD ALSO YEARN FOR A DEEPER MORE INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP WITH THEM.



1. AND THAT DESIRE WOULD BE STIMULATED WHEN THEY SAW THE SURPASSING GRACE OF GOD IN THE CORINTHIANS.

\* AND THESE BELIEVERS WOULD LONG BOTH TO PRAY FOR AND TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH THOSE **IN WHOM GOD'S GRACE WAS WORKING** SO MIGHTILY. THEREFORE, JEWS FROM JERUSALEM AND GENTILES FROM CORINTH WOULD BE BOUND TOGETHER AS ONE IN THE LOVE CHORDS OF CHRIST.

\*\* AND THIS LEADS TO GREAT PRAISE TO GOD FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT. LOOK AT V. 15 PLEASE WHERE **WE'LL SEE OUR FINAL VERSE** AND POINT, THE PRAISE.

III. THE PRAISE, (READ V. 15)

**A. NOW THIS CONCLUDING VERSE TO PAUL'S** INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CORINTHIANS ABOUT TAKING UP A LOVE OFFERING FOR THE POOR SAINTS IN JERUSALEM IN II CORINTHIANS 8&9, IS ONE OF THE RICHEST STATEMENTS IN SCRIPTURE.

\*\* II CORINTHIANS 9:15 IS A CONCLUDING BENEDECTION, A DOXOLOGY OF WORSHIP, AN EXPLOSION OF THANKSGIVING.

\*\*\* AND WHAT IGNITES THIS EXPLOSION OF **THANKSGIVING IS GOD'S INDESCRIBABLE GIFT!**

\*\*\*\* FOR AS PAUL REACHES THE END OF THIS SECTION ON CHRISTIAN GIVING, HE IS MOVED TO THINK OF THE GREATEST GIVER OF ALL – GOD HIMSELF.

1. PAUL THINKS OF THE GIFT BEYOND ALL OTHER GIFTS, FOR NO GIFT COULD BE GREATER.

\* AND THAT GIFT FROM GOD IS THE GIFT OF HIS SON TO UNDESERVING, REBELLIOUS, WICKED VILE SINNERS. THE ULTIMATE GIFT IS JESUS CHRIST AND SALVATION IN HIM, ETERNAL LIFE FOR HIS ELECT, THE SUPREME GIFT OF CHRIST AT CALVARY.

\*\* JESUS CHRIST IS THE GREATEST GIFT EVER GIVEN, THERE IS NOTHING CLOSE AND THERE IS NOTHING OR NO ONE THAT IS EVEN A CLOSE SECOND.

\*\*\* AND WORDS FAIL PAUL AS HE CONTEMPLATES THE MAGNITUDE OF THAT GIFT. THE THOUGHT OF GOD GIVING HIS SON TO MANKIND IS ASTOUNDING TO HIM.

\*\*\*\* AND BY GIVING THE WORLD THE MAGNIFICENT GIFT OF HIS SON, GOD HAS GIVEN TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT NO WORDS CAN DESCRIBE IT.

2. WHOLE LIBRARIES COULD NOT BEGIN TO PLUMB THE DEPTHS OF HIS MARVELOUS GENEROSITY. AND EVEN THE MOST GIFTED AND ARTICULATE WORDSMITH CANNOT COME UP WITH THE WORD OR WORDS THAT DO JUSTICE IN EXPLAINING THIS GIFT.

\* BUT UNDER INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PAUL COINS A WORD THAT APPEARS WAS NOT USED BEFORE IN CLASSICAL GREEK THAT APPEARS FIRST IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AND IT IS ONLY USED ONCE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

\*\* AND IT IS THE WORD TRANSLATED, INDESCRIBABLE, IN THE NAU, NKJV AND NIV, UNSPEAKABLE IN THE KJV AND INEXPRESSIBLE IN THE ESV.

\*\*\* AND IT IS AN ADJECTIVE THAT DESCRIBES SOMETHING THAT IS INCAPABLE OF BEING ADEQUATELY EXPRESSED OR UTTERED, UNUTTERABLE, INEFFABLE, UNSPEAKABLE, INDESCRIBABLE, INEXPRESSIBLE.

\*\*\*\* THE GIFT OF CHRIST IS A WONDER BEYOND DESCRIPTION, WE ARE UNABLE TO RECOUNT OR TELL FULLY ITS WORTH, IT IS BEYOND WORDS OR LANGUAGE.

**3. AND PAUL'S HEART IS OVERFLOWING TO THE**  
DEGREE THAT HE IS IMMERSSED, HE IS  
CONSUMED WITH THE REALITY OF THE GIFT OF  
CHRIST AND SALVATION.

\* THEREFORE WHAT WAS PAUL MOST  
THANKFUL FOR? THE GIFT BEYOND ALL GIFTS,  
THE GIFT OF GRACE IN SAVING A SINNER LIKE  
HIMSELF.

\*\* WORDS AGAIN FAIL PAUL AS HE  
CONTEMPLATES THE MAGNITUDE OF THAT GIFT  
WHICH IS BEYOND WORDS. SO PAUL BURSTS  
OUT HERE INTO A GREAT DOXOLOGY. HE IS  
FILLED AND OVERFLOWING IN GRATITUDE FOR  
THIS GIFT IS HIGHER THAN THE MIND CAN  
CONCEIVE AND HIGHER THAN LANGUAGE CAN  
EXPRESS.

\*\*\* AND BELOVED, ALL GIFTS THAT WE HAVE  
RECEIVED IN THIS LIFE DWARF IN COMPARISON  
TO THIS, THE GREATEST OF ALL GIFTS.

\*\*\*\* FOR ROMANS 6:23 SAYS (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE ROMANS 3:24, EPHESIANS 2:8&9 AND I JOHN 4:9&10.

4. AND **BELOVED GOD'S GIFT OF THE LORD** JESUS IS THE BASIS FOR A THANKFUL HEART. BELIEVER, GOD DOES NOT GIVE US WHAT WE DESERVE, WRATH. HE GIVES US MUCH MORE THAN WE COULD EVER DESERVE, FORGIVENESS, PEACE AND ONE DAY HEAVEN.

IN WRAP UP: (1) WHAT MOTIVATES GIVING? THE ANSWER, A THANKFUL HEART. **THANKSGIVING FOR OUR SALVATION AND GOD'S** GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE SHOULD LEAD TO THANKSLIVING WHICH HERE IN II CORINTHIANS 9:15 IS THE ACTION OF GIVING.

\* AND IN REALITY, AS WE THINK OF GOD SO LOVING US, HOW CAN WE NOT BE GENEROUS GIVERS, AS WE THINK OF THE MAGNANIMITY OF **GOD'S GENEROSITY TO US.**

\*\* I MEAN TO NOT GIVE IS THE ULTIMATE ACT OF UNGRATEFULNESS AND MAY COMMUNICATE AN UNCONVERTED HEART.

\*\*\* AND CHRISTIAN IN REALITY, WE HAVE BEEN MADE BY SOVEREIGN GRACE PROSPEROUS, RICH, **EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE A LOT OF THINGS.**

\*\*\*\* AND REMEMBER THE PURPOSE OF PROSPERITY IN II CORINTHIANS 9:8-15 IS SO WE CAN GIVE MORE, NOT GET MORE.

(2) AND AT THIS SEASON OF GIVING, MAY WE BE GENEROUS AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT OF HIS SON, THAT GOD BECAME A MAN TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.

\* AND IF YOU ARE HERE TODAY WITHOUT CHRIST, TURN IN REPENTANT FAITH TO THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FORGIVE YOUR SINS AND SAVE YOUR SOUL. EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. QUOTE MATTHEW 1:21 AND LUKE 2:11 AND PRAY.



V. 8 - AND GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL  
GRACE ABOUND TO YOU, SO THAT  
ALWAYS HAVING ALL SUFFICIENCY  
IN EVERYTHING, YOU MAY HAVE  
AN ABUNDANCE FOR EVERY GOOD DEED;

V. 9 - **AS IT IS WRITTEN,** "HE  
SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE  
POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES  
FOREVER."

V. 10 - NOW HE WHO SUPPLIES SEED TO THE  
SOWER AND BREAD FOR FOOD WILL SUPPLY  
AND MULTIPLY YOUR SEED FOR SOWING AND  
INCREASE THE HARVEST OF YOUR  
RIGHTEOUSNESS;

V. 11 - YOU WILL BE ENRICHED IN  
EVERYTHING FOR ALL LIBERALITY,  
WHICH THROUGH US IS  
PRODUCING THANKSGIVING TO GOD.

V. 12 - FOR THE MINISTRY OF THIS SERVICE IS NOT ONLY FULLY SUPPLYING THE NEEDS OF THE SAINTS, BUT IS ALSO OVERFLOWING THROUGH MANY THANKSGIVINGS TO GOD.

V. 13 - BECAUSE OF THE PROOF GIVEN BY  
THIS MINISTRY, THEY WILL GLORIFY GOD  
FOR YOUR OBEDIENCE TO YOUR CONFESSION  
OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST AND FOR  
THE LIBERALITY OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION  
TO THEM AND TO ALL,

V. 14 - WHILE THEY ALSO, BY PRAYER ON  
YOUR BEHALF, YEARN FOR YOU BECAUSE  
OF THE SURPASSING GRACE OF GOD IN YOU.

V. 15 - THANKS BE TO GOD FOR  
HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT!



