



2 Corinthians 9

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2 Corinthians 9.

Topics.

- Paul sends Titus to collect the Corinthians offering.
- Sowing and reaping.
- God is able to make all grace abound to you.
- Having all sufficiency in all things that you may abound in every good work.
- God will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest.
- Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

The previous chapter: in the previous chapter Paul said that though Jesus was rich he became poor for us so that we might be rich, he spoke of the financial gift the churches of Macedonia had collected to help the poor at Jerusalem and asked the Corinthian brothers and sisters to also take up a collection and give it to faithful and trusted men who were taking this gift of grace to Jerusalem.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

- In certain chapters this letter is written as though Paul is having a conversation with the Corinthians (i.e., he asks them a question and then answers it etc.).
- Though Paul's letter is directed to the Corinthian church the content applies to any church or believer in the same situations.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-5

Paul sends Titus to Collect the Corinthians Offering.

- **2 Corinthians 9:1-5:** Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, ²for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them. ³But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove vain in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. ⁴Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. ⁵So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.

From the previous chapter we learn that the brothers Paul was sending to the Corinthians to collect their offering for the relief of the brothers and sisters in Christ at Jerusalem was Titus and two other faithful and trusted brothers (2 Cor. 8:16-22) well known to the churches of the surrounding region. Paul has been boasting to the churches of Macedonia of the Corinthians willingness over the last year or so (2 Cor. 8:10-11) to take up a collection for the brothers and sisters who are suffering in Jerusalem and is now asking them to complete it. It seems Paul wants to make sure that the Corinthian's have the collection ready for him before Titus and the two other faithful and trusted brothers arrive. Obviously it would be enormously humbling not only for the Corinthian brothers and sisters but

also for Paul if they did not have the collection ready when they arrived especially since they had said they would and Paul had boasted of their willingness to many other churches who had already given more than they could afford.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

Sowing and Reaping.

- **2 Corinthians 9:6-8:** The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

This principal of sowing and reaping applies to all human relationships i.e., marriage, friendships and romance etc., if we show love, kindness, compassion or offer our help we will reap the same rewards back, but the reaping back may not always come in the same form it was sown or from the same people it was given to. Someone may give money and food to a man who is out of work, but that does not mean that they will reap money and food back from him (he simply does not have the means), but it does mean good will come to them in some form.

NOTICE: the principals of giving, each individual person is to give from a willing heart and not under compulsion meaning that they have made up their own mind. They have not been enticed by religious mood music or by ministers cleverly twisting Scriptures to move their congregations by guilt to dig deep into their pockets or by the collective pressure of an assembly. The reason they are happy to give is because they have willingly chosen what they can afford to give thus the reason God loves a cheerful giver, their giving is an honest expression of their own heart.

God is able to make all grace abound to you: the words, "God is able to make all grace abound to you" (v8) means that God's grace in Christ is more than sufficient to save us to eternal life, no matter what our circumstances are in life. This means that it makes no difference whether a person is a descendant of Abraham, or born a Hebrew, Jew or born of a Gentile nation or whether they are noble, wealthy and rich or lowly and poor God's grace is more than sufficient to save us all in Christ.

Having all sufficiency in all things that you may abound in every good work: the words, "So that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work" carries the idea that those in Christ are made completely righteous (by faith) so that they can carry on the good work of the Lord at all times and regardless of what situation or circumstance they maybe in they are fully equipped to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel and to help others in need as they are able.

NOTICE: God gives money and food to the poor and those less fortunate through the generosity of other brothers and sisters who give from their abundance and are prepared to share what they have. This is what the Macedonian churches and the Corinthian brothers and sisters' collection is all about, God through their willing generosity is giving to the poorer brothers and sisters in Christ at Jerusalem.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:9

God's Righteousness Endures Forever.

- **2 Corinthians 9:9:** As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

These words take our minds to (Psalm 112) in which the author wrote:

- He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honour (Psalm 112:9).

The focus of this Psalm is upon people who are gracious, merciful, and righteous, who are generous and willing to lend (without interest), it is upon people who conducts their affairs with justice and whose heart is firm trusting in the LORD (Psalm 112:1-7). Paul by turning our mind to this Psalm is shining a floodlight on the fact that God's righteousness endures forever on those who trust in the Lord, love justice and are gracious, merciful, generous and do good to others.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:10

God will Supply and multiply your Seed for Sowing.

- **2 Corinthians 9:10:** 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.

The words, "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food" (v10) alludes to the following words of Isaiah:

- As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, (Isaiah 55:10).

Isaiah in this chapter is calling everyone who thirsts and has no money to delight themselves in the word of the LORD which he calls the food that is rich and good and is without price since whoever eats of this food will live forever. While the words:

- God will multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness (v10)

Allude to the following words of Hosea:

- Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you (Hosea 10:12).

At this time the nation of Israel was flourishing in luxurious living, but the people were full of iniquity and trusting in their own ways, so God is calling them to forsake their ways, seek the LORD and turn to righteousness and they will reap the LORD'S steadfast love. When God created seeds, he created within them the ability to produce even more seeds, i.e., when a seed is planted it grows and produces many other seeds. Paul is using this principle to say that God who multiplies seed to those who sow the seeds will in the same way multiply righteousness through the giving of the collection (the seed that is being sown) that the Corinthian church has been taking up for the past year. This gift to the brothers and sisters at Jerusalem will increase their righteous, in the sense that those they are giving the money to will be so thankful and grateful for the aid that they will in turn respond to the Gospel of Christ and be added to the church. In this way the Corinthians righteousness has increased. It has increased by the multiplication of others being added to the body of Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:11-15

Thanks be to God for His inexpressible Gift!

- **2 Corinthians 9:11-15:** You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³By their approval of this service they will glorify God because of your submission

flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

NOTE: this gift would have been a lot of money the Corinthian's have been putting it aside every week for over a year now.

Paul words, "You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity" (v11) means that the tremendous and overwhelming joy those at Jerusalem experience when they receive the gift will result in a double blessing in the following two ways: -

1. It will supply food to the hungry.
2. It will result in an abundance of praises and gratitude to God.

It is in this way that the grace of God on the Corinthian brothers and sisters is manifested. It is manifested through their generous and willing heart to give to the brothers and sisters in need at Jerusalem. There are two reasons the brothers and sisters in Jerusalem will praise God, firstly because of the Corinthians testimony to the Gospel of Christ and secondly because of their generosity toward them it is through this willing and generous act of giving that God's surpassing grace is manifested upon the Corinthian church.

The inexpressible gift: the words, "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!" refer to the overwhelming generosity of the Corinthian church.

NOTICE: Paul credits God for the generosity of the Corinthian brothers and sisters, this is because Paul sees every good gift as flowing from God's Spirit and therefore recognises that the Corinthian's generosity is a manifestation of God's Spirit of love and compassion not only dwelling in them, but also flowing through them.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.