

2 Corinthians 19 - 9:6-15

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Today: Principles of giving 9:6-15

Bountiful giving brings bountiful rewards 9:6

God loves a cheerful giver 9:7

God provides abundantly for generosity 9:8-11a

Giving brings a rich harvest 9:12-14

Doxology 9:15

Principles of giving 9:6-15

Bountiful giving brings bountiful rewards 9:6

2 Corinthians 9:6 (LSB)

6Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows with blessing will also reap with blessing.

- Now this I say. Introducing principles of giving
- Illustration from farming: sowing and reaping.
 - The farmer sows seed by scattering it on the ground. He sows intentionally, willingly and generously, as much as he can. He does not sow sparingly because that would result in reaping sparingly. He trusts in God to provide a good harvest which will provide much more seed than he sowed, giving food for his family and seed to sow the next year.
- with blessing
 - Same word used in 9:5 to describe the Corinthian offering.
 - lit “with blessings”
 - Idiom: upon the principle of blessing: giving generously to the poor results in great reward.
 - Principle in Judaism. Pr 22:9 He who is generous will be blessed, For he gives from his food to the poor.
 - Jesus in Lk 6:38 “Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”
 - Not the prosperity gospel (the more you give the more you get. Ja 4:3 getting so you can spend it on your lusts). Rather the more you give the more God gives to you so you can then give more to others.

God loves a cheerful giver 9:7

2 Corinthians 9:7 (LSB)

7Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

- Each one.
 - Each person decides for themselves.
 - Not decided for them by a ruler or a group
 - Testifies to their individual faith.
- must do. Not in the text. Lit “Each one just as he has purposed in his heart”. Intentionally avoiding an imperative.
- About motive
- The right motive: as he has purposed in his heart.
 - Decided beforehand upon careful consideration.
 - Thus Paul sent the brothers ahead to arrange the collection so that it would be ready as a blessing (2 Cor 9:5)
- The wrong motive: grudgingly or under compulsion
 - grudgingly
 - Done reluctantly with regret; grieving the loss.
 - under compulsion
 - Done because forced to.
- God loves a cheerful giver
 - Quoting Pr 22:8 LXX
 - cheerful. Gk hilares (Eng hilarious): exuberantly joyful and willing. He is doing what he wants for the glory of His Lord.
 - loves. Approves; has high regard for. Because a cheerful giver is like Jesus who cheerfully became poor so that we might become rich (2 Cor 8:9)

God provides abundantly for generosity 9:8-11

2 Corinthians 9:8–11 (LSB)

8And God is able to make every grace abound to you, so that in everything at every time having every sufficiency, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

9as it is written, “HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE NEEDY, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS STANDS FOREVER.”

10Now He who supplies SEED TO THE SOWER AND BREAD FOR FOOD will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

11you will be enriched in everything for all generosity, which through us is bringing about thanksgiving to God.

- v8-9 Sufficiency
 - And God is able to make...abound to you..
 - He has the ability to provide in abundance.
 - And He does (v10)
 - every grace.
 - Every spiritual and material blessing
 - Main theme of this section (2 Cor 8:1, 5, 7, 9, 16, 19). Paul sees everything about the collection as a manifestation of God’s grace for His glory.
 - so that in everything at every time
 - “every” 5x
 - everything. All situations.
 - every time. At all times
 - having every sufficiency
 - All that is needed
 - Not as Greek Cynics and Stoics. They sought a proud self-sufficiency gained through self-discipline so that they were not affected by circumstances or other people.
 - Rather a sufficiency from God: trusting Him to provide everything needed to function as a member of the body of Christ working to build up the body in love.

- you may have an abundance for every good deed
 - abundance. More than sufficient.
 - for every good deed
 - Singular. All good deeds.
 - God does not give to us so that we can spend His grace on our pleasures (Ja 4:3)
 - Rather He gives to us so that we can do good deeds for others.
 - Jn 15:7-8 parable of the vine and branches: "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.
 - By God's grace, the Corinthians had an abundance of material wealth. This enabled them to give to help the poorer saints in Jerusalem.
 - Good deeds don't earn God's grace but flow out of His grace already given.
- as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE NEEDY, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS STANDS FOREVER."
 - Quoting Ps 112:9 LXX
 - Context is the blessedness of the man who fears Yahweh
 - The benefits of his giving to the poor are eternal.

- v10-11 Enriched
 - Now He who supplies SEED TO THE SOWER AND BREAD FOR FOOD
 - Quoting Is 55:10
 - Context is Yahweh's provision on the earth which accomplishes His purpose
 - will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness;
 - Supply (your seed): provide spiritual and material benefits.
 - Multiply your seed: to accomplish a great harvest. Described in v12-14.
 - of your righteousness.
 - Using the seed given to give to others, not for themselves.
 - Hos 10:12 Sow with a view to righteousness
 - Gal 6:6-7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.
 - you will be enriched in everything for all generosity
 - you will be enriched. Passive. God's grace given to the Corinthians
 - in everything. Includes both material wealth and willingness to share
 - for all generosity.
 - The Corinthians were given much so that they could be generous
 - Not like the rich fool in Lk 12
 - Had much grain and goods. Built barns to store them for himself.
 - That night God demanded his soul. He was not rich towards God.
 - Better to store his riches by giving to those in need. Then he would be rich toward God.
 - which through us is bringing about thanksgiving to God.
 - The collection provides the opportunity for the harvest to be realized.

Giving brings a rich harvest 9:12-14

2 Corinthians 9:12–14 (LSB)

12For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also abounding through many thanksgivings to God.

13Because of the proven character given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the generosity of your fellowship toward them and toward all,

14while they also, by prayer on your behalf, long for you because of the surpassing grace of God on you.

- Ministry. Service to the saints in Jerusalem
- Service. Secular context: contribution for public service. Religious context: priestly service to God. Both meanings in view here: the collection is a sacrifice pleasing to God. Heb 13:16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
- Four blessings in the harvest
- 1st blessing: fully supplying the needs of the saints
 - in Jerusalem
 - fully. To overflowing.
- 2nd blessing: abounding through many thanksgivings to God
 - Not just a few.
 - From all involved: the Jerusalem church, the other Gentile churches, Paul and his fellow workers.
- 3rd blessing: they (the saints in Jerusalem) will glorify God
 - Because of the proven character given by this ministry
 - Of the Corinthians
 - They are proving themselves to be no longer strangers but fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household. (Eph 2:19)
 - Two proofs of their character
 - for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ.
 - The Corinthians confess the gospel of Christ.
 - They are being obedient to that confession by making Jesus their Lord and being like Him (2 Cor 8:9).
 - for the generosity of your fellowship toward them and toward all
 - They are demonstrating true faith by helping their brothers in need (James 2:15-16)
 - They are manifesting the unity of the church composed of Jews and Gentiles reconciled through the cross (Eph 2:16).
- 4th blessing: they also, by prayer on your behalf, long for you because of the surpassing grace of God on you.
 - The Jerusalem saints will have affection for the Corinthians and yearn for blessing for them. Their longing will be expressed in prayer.
 - Because of God's grace which enabled the Corinthians to take part in the collection.

Doxology 9:15

2 Corinthians 9:15 (LSB)

15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

- Doxology of praise
- His indescribable gift. The free gift of justification through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus (Ro 3:24).
- That gift enables God to show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:7).
- The Jerusalem collection is just one instance of that grace.

Application: Find the grace

In 2 Cor 8:1-5 Paul describes the grace of God given to the Macedonians regarding the Jerusalem collection.

How was God's grace manifested in the Corinthian collection for the Jerusalem church?

- They were rich in material goods. 2 Cor 8:14
- Early in the collection they were zealous to participate 2 Cor 9:2
- Through all their difficulties Paul continued to regard them as new creations and continued to boast in them. 2 Cor 5:17; 7:14
- The sorrowful visit and severe letter were painful but it brought them to repentance and earnestness. 2 Cor 7:11
- As a result of their repentance regarding the sorrowful visit
 - Paul was able to encourage them to complete their collection. 2 Cor 8 - 9
 - Their repentance refreshed Titus and made him affectionate towards them so that he was eager to help them complete the collection. 2 Cor 8:16-17
- Paul wisely sent the brothers ahead to assist the Corinthians in completing their collection. 2 Cor 9:3
- When they successfully completed their collection
 - The needs of the Jerusalem church would be met. 2 Cor 9:12
 - Many thanksgivings would abound to God. 9:12
 - They would prove the genuineness of their character 9:13
 - The Jerusalem saints would glorify God because of their obedience to their confession and because of the generosity of their fellowship. 9:13
 - The Jerusalem saints would long for them and pray for them. 9:14

References

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