

## 2 CORINTHIANS 9 Administering the Gift; The Cheerful Giver!

### OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) Click on “Latest Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

## 2 CORINTHIANS 9 Administering the Gift;

Paul is in Philippi where he has met with Titus, who has informed him of the response and the reaction of the Corinthian church to his first epistle, which prompted Paul to quickly send them a second epistle. Paul is planning to come soon to Corinth. He is going to come to Corinth as he is on his way to Jerusalem. He has been taking up offerings in the Gentile churches in order that he might bring these offerings to the church in Jerusalem to help them in their current financial distress. So he is writing to the Corinthians. In chapters eight and nine, he is talking to them about their giving, their giving generously for the needs of the church in Jerusalem. He gives them rules that govern our giving in the New Testament. How we, in these New Testament times, are to give to the Lord. He gives certain rules governing the giving.

So in chapter eight, we studied that portion of Paul's lesson on giving. As we go in to chapter nine, we actually are continuing from the things that Paul said concerning giving in chapter eight.

**2Co 9:1** *Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you;*  
**2Co 9:2** *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.*

**2Co 9:3** *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;*  
**2Co 9:4** *lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting.*

**2Co 9:5** *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.*

**vs. 1-2** The willingness of the Corinthian Christians to give. The specific **ministering** Paul has in mind is the financial support of the Jerusalem **saints**. **Act 11:29; 1Co 16:1-4**. .... *superfluous for me to write to you....* It shouldn't be necessary to remind you about the collection, because you are already ready and willing to give." At the same time, Paul is doesn't want to persuade the Corinthians regarding giving, when he gets there. Next Paul is encouraging them in their *manner* of giving. **which I boast of you** In the previous chapter, he had spoken of the **Macedonians** as wonderful examples of giving (**2Co 8:1-8**). Now, Paul informs the Corinthian Christians that he has been boasting to the **Macedonians** about their *willingness* to give! **Your zeal has stirred up the majority**: Paul is saying that the Corinthians were so zealous in their willingness to give that they were an example to **the majority** of other Christians.

**v. 3** Paul is sending Titus and the others, thinking it was necessary to exhort the brethren to prepare your previously promised, generous gift beforehand, which, that it may be ready as *a matter* of generosity and not as a grudging obligation. **Yet I have sent the brethren**: "You all are so ready and willing to give that I'm sure you would bring the collection to me. But in any regard, I'll send **the brethren** to come pick it up.

**v. 4** Lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared: After all, Corinthians, you don't want the Macedonians to see that you were unwilling to give. We don't want a case where **we (not to mention you!)** **should be ashamed of this confident boasting.**"

**v. 5**. ....*necessary . . . that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation*: Paul wanted the collection completed before he arrived, so there would be nothing even remotely manipulative in its receiving. He was concerned that giving be a matter of **generosity** and not a matter of *grudging obligation*. God Himself never gives out of an attitude of *grudging obligation*, and neither should we. To be *generous*, in the Biblical idea of the word, has more to do with our *attitude* in giving than with the *amount* that we give.

**1–** It's rather strange that we Christians need encouragements to give, when God has given so much to us. God had enriched the Corinthians in a wonderful way, and yet they were hesitant to share what they had with others.

**2–** When we see what God is doing in and through the lives of others, we ought to strive to serve Him better ourselves. A zealous Christian can be the means of stirring up a church and motivating people to pray, work, witness, and give.

**3–** Coercion to give is always to be avoided. Paul wanted the entire contribution to be ready when he and his "finance committee" arrived, so that there might not be any last-minute collections that might appear to be forced on the church.

**4–** Paul wanted to avoid embarrassment to himself and to the church if the offering was not ready. There were several representatives from the Macedonian churches on the special committee (see **Act 20:4**). Paul had boasted to the Macedonians about Corinth, and now he feared that his boasting might be in vain.

**5–** In giving, the real issue isn't giving money. It is giving ourselves to the Lord. If we have really given ourselves to the Lord, then the right kind of giving will naturally follow. **How is your giving of yourself?**

**Matthew 22:20-21** *"And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" [21] They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."* We, made in His image, bear the image of God? **We are to give ourselves to God. That is what He wants. When you give that, then everything else will follow. You hold things in trust to be used whenever He lets you know that a need exists for them. That is proper Christian giving.**

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

#### The Cheerful Giver!

2Co 9:6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

#### Principle of reaping and sowing, like a farmer

- Sow bountifully; (1 grain of corn produces 600-800 grains) Reap bountifully!
- God loves a cheerful giver!



v. 6 The reward of giving, and the right heart in giving. Our giving should be bountiful, if we would be rewarded bountifully. *He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly:* A farmer sowing seed may feel he is losing seed as it falls from his hand to the ground, and we may feel we are losing when we are giving. But just as the sower gives the seed in anticipation of a future harvest, we should give with the same heart. If a farmer were to sow few seeds because he wanted to “hold on” to as much seed as he could, he would have more seed in his barn after sowing time, but much less at harvest. *Will also reap bountifully:* What do we reap when we give? We reap both material and spiritual blessings! Materially, we can trust that God will provide for the giving heart. The promise of Php 4:19 (And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus) is made in the context of the generous hearts of the Philippians (Php 4:15-18). If we give to God, He will give to us materially. Spiritually, we know God will reward the giving heart both now and in eternity. (Mat 19:29): *And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.* We are never the losers when we give to God. The Lord can never be in debt to any man. We need not afraid of giving God “too much.” Spiritually or materially, you can’t out-give God. Act 20:35 *I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* " Related scriptures re giving: Ps. 41:1-2; Prov. 3:9-10; 11:24-25; 19:17; 22:9; Luke 6:38; Haggai 1:6; Malachi 3:8-10).

#### A MAJOR PRINCIPLE IN GIVING!

v. 6 – God has promised to bless those who give. Psalms 41:1-2, “Blessed is he that considers the poor. The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. [2] The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive. And he shall be blessed upon the earth. You will not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.” The blessedness of those who consider and give to the poor.

Proverbs 3:9-10, “Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; [10] So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.” God’s promises to keep a person from trouble, to preserve him if they will give to the poor. If you will honor Him with your substance, He will make sure that you have plenty.

Proverbs 11:24-25, “There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty. [25] The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.” If you are giving, (scattering), then you will increase. If you withhold, then that is going to lead you to poverty.

Proverbs 19:17, He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given. The Lord will pay him again.

Proverbs 22:9, “He who has a generous eye will be blessed, For he gives of his bread to the poor.”

Luke 6:38 Then Jesus adds to the principle. “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” There is the principle. It is hard for us to imagine, **how that by giving more, I receive more!** There are a lot of people who say, well, we really can’t afford to give. **But I wonder can we really afford not to give?** Perhaps the problem with the fact that you are experienced financial difficulties, is that you haven’t considered the Lord and giving to Him.

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

**2Co 9:7** *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful (hilaros; propitious or merry (“hilarious”), that is, prompt or willing: - cheerful. giver.)*

**2Co 9:8** *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.*

**2Co 9:9** *As it is written: "HE HAS DISPERSED ABROAD, HE HAS GIVEN TO THE POOR; HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."*

**v. 7** Giving should come from a right heart. *So let each one give:* Giving is for **each one**. Every Christian should be a giver. Some, because of small resources, cannot give much. But it is still important that they give, and that they give with the right kind of heart. **As he purposes in his own heart:** Giving should be motivated by the purposes of our **own heart**. It should never be coerced or manipulated. We should give because we *want* to give, because God has put it in our *own heart* to give. ... *where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* (Mat 6:21) **Not grudging or of necessity:** God does not want our giving to be **grudging** (reluctantly, regretfully given with plenty of complaining) or **of necessity** (given because someone has made us or manipulated us into giving). This is more the spirit behind *taxation*, not Biblical giving! **For God loves a cheerful giver:** Instead of giving in a **grudging** way or out of **necessity**, God wants us to give *cheerfully*. The Greek word for **cheerful** (*hilaros*, used only here in the New Testament) is the root for our English word *hilarious*. God wants us to give *happily*, because that is how God Himself gives!

**v. 8** *God is able to make all grace abound toward you:* As we give, we must be persuaded that **God is able** to reward our giving. Just as **God is able** to make the sowing of seed **abound** to a great harvest, so **God is able** to bless our giving. Jesus taught that even the smallest gift, if given with the right heart, would not go unrewarded. **Mat 10:42** *And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."* In rewarding our giving, God does it with **all grace**. Our giving is rewarded in many different ways, materially and spiritually. There is no end to the ways we can be blessed when **God is able to make all grace abound toward us**. **Always having all sufficiency in all things:** The word for *sufficiency* (*autarkeia*) may also be translated *contentment*. This is how the same word is used in **1Ti 6:6** : *Now godliness with contentment is great gain*. God gives a special gift to the giving heart: **always . . . all contentment in all things**. That is a lot of **all**!

**Eph 2:10** *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

**v. 9** **HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER.** Quoting **Psa 112:9**, Generous giving does not make us righteous, but it does give evidence of a right standing with God. **The honor of it is lasting, the reward of it eternal, and he is still able to live comfortably himself and to give liberally to others.**

**v. 6 con'td–** In (**Haggai 1:6**), the people were in a dilemma.. They were earning money, but never having enough. You put your money in bags, but it seems that the bags have holes in them. You're always short. Why is this? It was because they were laying up for themselves and thinking only of themselves. They had not put God first. We are told we are to bring the first fruits to the Lord. In (**Malachi 3:8-10**), *"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. [9] You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. [10] Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.* The Lord responded, in your tithes and offerings. Test or **try Me now in this** and see if I will not pour out unto a blessing which you are not able to contain. And he told them to bring their tithes and offerings to His storehouse that they might have plenty. And He has promised a return. **There is the principle of giving to God and how that God will give back to you in return.**

**v. 7–** **Act 5:1-11**, Ananias and Sapphira stand as examples of giving for the wrong reasons, not out of a cheerful heart. Giving should be hilarious giving, giving out of the heart, **because you love to give, not because you are bound to give."**

**v. 8–** The right kind of giving is always blessed. God blesses us, materially and spiritually, so that we will **have an abundance for every good work**. We are blessed so that we can be a blessing to others. God wants us to be *channels* of blessing, not *reservoirs* of blessing.

**v. 9–** A righteous man who has dispersed abroad; who has given to the poor. His righteousness remains forever.



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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

**2Co 9:10** 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,

**2Co 9:11** while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

**2Co 9:12** For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

**2Co 9:13** 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,

**v. 10** Paul prays for blessing for the giving Corinthians. **May He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food:** Paul recognizes God as the great supplier. Whatever we have to give has been first given to us by God. **Supply and multiply the seed you have sown:** Paul prays that God would **supply** resources to the Corinthians so they may give, and at the same time **multiply** what they have given. **Increase the fruits of your righteousness:** The giving of the Corinthians, **the seed you have sown**, will give a harvest, **the fruits of your righteousness**. Paul prays that God would **increase** these **fruits** coming from their giving.

**v. 11** Paul prayed that the Corinthians would be **enriched** by their giving, both materially and spiritually. **For all liberality:** This is the reason why the Corinthians should be **enriched in everything**. Not for their own riches or lavish lifestyles, but **for all liberality** - that is, for all generous giving. **which causes thanksgiving through us to God:** After all the giving is done, and **all liberality** is shown by the Corinthians, the **thanksgiving** is directed **to God**.

**v. 12** **Four benefits** of the giving from the Corinthians. **Not only supplies the needs of the saints:** **First**, on the most practical level, **the giving of the Corinthians would supply the needs of the saints**. This is a good thing in and of itself. But their giving did far more than that. **Secondly, their gifts would also cause many thanksgivings to God.** They were giving more than money for food; they were giving people a reason to thank God!

**v. 13** **Third, the giving of the Corinthian Christians was evidence of God's work in them.** When those in need received the gift, they would **glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing**. The thanksgiving that would come from the gift of the Corinthians would be for more than the gift itself. They would also **glorify God** as they understood the gift meant **the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ**, and it meant the Corinthians had hearts of **liberal sharing**. Giving among the Corinthian Christians was evidence of their **obedience** to their **confession to the gospel of Christ**. If a person does not have a generous heart, there is a sense in which they are not **obedient** to the **confession of the gospel of Christ**! **Liberal sharing:** The word translated sharing is *koinania*. This is the same word used for the idea of fellowship and communion. It means the **sharing** of things in common. When we share our lives, it is fellowship. When we share remembrance of Jesus' work for us through the Lord's Supper, it is communion. When we share our resources so none would be destitute, it is **sharing**.

**v. 10 –** May God bless and multiply the seed that you have sown, increasing the fruits of your righteousness. May you abound in the Spiritual things as you have purposed in your heart to give to the Lord. That you may reap plentifully, and have the best and most ample returns of your giving, so as to be enriched in everything to all bountifulness.

**v. 11 –** The more you are enriched by God the more scope there will be for generous giving, and your gifts, administered through us, will mean that many will thank God.

**v. 12 –** Your giving will not only help the Jerusalem believers practically, but it will help them spiritually. It will cause them to abound in thanksgiving," Paul told the Corinthians. The poor are relieved. They will see the hand of God in this relief, and give God the glory of His grace.

**v. 13 –** Others would also thank God because the gift from the Corinthian Christians would show that they had hearts of liberal sharing. This meant God was really doing a work in the hearts of the Corinthian Christians, and that was something worth thanking God for.

#### **Godly blessings of giving**

- We're not to give to get, but be aware of God's blessings to giver
- It **awakens gratitude** in recipients
- It **results in prayers** for the giver and **consequent blessings**
- It **glorifies God with thanksgiving** of many, **giving thanks and praise to God!!**

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

*2Co 9:14 and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.*

*2Co 9:15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (*anekdiegetos*, not found in any ancient Greek writing before this time. Apparently, Paul made up the word to describe the indescribable!)*

*v. 14 And by their prayer for you: The fourth benefit from the gift of the Corinthians was that it would prompt the Jerusalem Christians to pray for them. Paul expected that the Jerusalem Christians would pray for the Corinthian givers. This is something that we can do when others give to us, and we need their gifts. We can pray for them.*

*v. 15 Praise to God for the greatest gift! What is His indescribable gift? Some think it is the gift of salvation; others think it is the gift of Jesus Christ. Why not both? **Salvation is given to us in Jesus Christ.** We are reminded again that God is the greatest giver. He gives the gift beyond description: *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (Joh 3:16)* This means that Jesus is a *gift*. Salvation is a *gift*. We do not earn it. We receive Jesus, we receive salvation exactly as we would receive a *gift*. If we earn it, it is not a *gift*. It also means that Jesus is an *indescribable gift*. Salvation is an *indescribable gift*. The glory of the gift of Jesus, and the greatness of the gift of salvation cannot be adequately described. It is impossible to *adequately* describe the gift. It is beyond full description! When Paul writes *His indescribable gift*, the word he uses for *indescribable* **thanks be to God:** This means God’s *indescribable gift* should fill us with gratitude. If we really understand and appreciate the *indescribable gift* God has given us, our lives will be saturated with gratitude. How fitting for Paul to conclude these two chapters about giving with a focus on *His indescribable gift!* The best motivation for giving is always gratitude for the *indescribable gift* of God to us. **God’s indescribable gift is what inspires all true giving. Jesus Christ, who is indeed the unspeakable gift of God unto this world, a gift we have all reason to be very thankful for.***

*v. 14 –* This, was one of the major purposes that Paul had on his heart when he challenged the Gentile churches to assist the Jewish believers. The extreme legalists in the church had accused Paul of being anti-Jewish and even anti-Law. The Gentile churches were removed from the “mother church” in Jerusalem both by distance and culture. Paul wanted to prevent a division in the church, and the “relief offering” was a part of that prevention program.

*v. 15 – **JESUS CHRIST, the gift of God’s love** to mankind, is an unspeakable blessing; no man can conceive, much less declare, how great this gift is; for these things the angels desire to look into. Therefore He may be well called the unspeakable gift, as He is the highest God ever gave or can give to man.” (Clarke) “Ah, how many times have I, for one, spoken upon this gift during the last forty years! I have spoken of little else. I heard one who said, ‘I suppose Spurgeon is preaching that old story over again.’ Yes, that is what he is doing; and if he lives another twenty years, and you come here, it will be ‘the old, old story’ still, for there is nothing like it.” (Spurgeon) “If you preach Christ, you will never run short. If you have preached ten thousand sermons about Christ, you have not left the shore; you are not out in the deep sea yet. Dive, my brother! With splendor of thought, plunge into the great mystery of free grace and dying love; and when you have dived the farthest, you will perceive that you are as far off the bottom as when you first touched the surface.” (Spurgeon)*

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

#### PRINCIPLES OF GIVING -

##### 2 Corinthians, Chapter 8:

##### The Grace of God –the primary motive for giving.

- Just think what God has given us!
- Give not for reputation – Ananias & Sapphira!

##### Example of Macedonian Church

- Giving under affliction and deep poverty.
- They did what they said they would
- Freely willing
- First gave themselves (Mt. 22:20-21)

##### Christ as pattern or example

- Gave it all
- Became poor that we might be rich. (John 17:5; Phil 2:8)
- First, a willing mind
- Equality, not give to become destitute while making others rich
- Not for amount but equality in response
- God gives us what we have. He gave us the opportunity to make money
- Our opportunities to give are arranged by God

##### Accountability –

- Be above reproach or blame:
- Not just one person handling of funds and their expenditure
- Complete openness and good accounting

##### 2 Corinthians, Chapter 9:

- Do what you promise - Don't give grudgingly
- Give as a matter of generosity, not grudging obligation
- That is not reason to not give but to ask what you're willing to give to
- That will be where your heart is!

##### Principle of reaping and sowing, like a farmer

- Sow bountifully; (1 grain of corn produces 600-800 grains) Reap bountifully!
- God loves a cheerful giver!

##### Godly blessings of giving

- We're not to give to get, but be aware of God's blessings to giver
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Jesus Christ, who is indeed the unspeakable gift of God unto this world, a gift we have all reason to be very thankful for.

- 2Co 9:15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

#### TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE –

*Havergal/Malan - Vineyard Music*

*Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love. At the impulse of Thy love.*

*Take my feet and let them be, swift and beautiful for Thee. Take my voice and let me sing, always, only for my King. Always, only for my King.*

*Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold. Not a mite would I withhold*

*Take my love, my God, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store. Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee. Ever, only, all for Thee*

*Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee. Ever, only, all for Thee. Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee. Ever, only, all for Thee.*

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