

2 Corinthians 09 - Giving; Stewardship

II. Paul's instructions concerning the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor 8:1–9:15)

- (5) Paul's anticipated visit (9:1-5)
- (6) Benefits of generosity (9:6-15)

2 Corinthians 9

- (5) Paul's anticipated visit (9:1-5)

1 For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints;

1 For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints;

1 I do not need to write to you any further about the ministry to the saints.

1 For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you:

2 for I know your willingness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, *namely*, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and **your zeal has stirred up most of them**.

2 for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, *namely*, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.

2 For I know how willing you are, and I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year, and your enthusiasm has stimulated most of them.

2 For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.

- "...your zeal has stirred up most of them" - Paul had used the promises of the Corinthians to challenge the Macedonians; now he uses the performance of the Macedonians to challenge the Corinthians! (Heb 10:24). Generosity is contagious.

3 But I have sent the brothers, in order that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you will be prepared;

3 But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared;

3 Now I have sent the brothers so that our boasting about you in this matter may not prove to be an idle boast, and so that you may stand ready, just as I said.

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

4 otherwise, if *any* Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to mention you—would be put to shame by this confidence.

4 otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to speak of you—will be put to shame by this confidence.

4 Otherwise, if any Macedonians come with me and find out that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—in this undertaking.

4 Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting.

5 So I considered it necessary to urge the brothers that they go on ahead to you and arrange in advance your previously promised generous gift, that the same would be ready as a generous gift, and not as *one grudgingly given due to greediness*.

5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness.

5 Therefore, I thought it necessary to urge these brothers to visit you ahead of me, to make arrangements in advance for this gift you promised, and to have it ready as something given generously and not forced.

5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.

(6) Benefits of generosity (9:6-15)

6 Now *I say* this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows generously will also reap generously.

6 Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

6 Remember this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.

6 But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

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

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

7 Each of you must give what you have decided in your heart, not with regret or under compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.

7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

- "...cheerful" - *hilaron*, the root for the English word "hilarious." Preachers often will refer to the Greek root to conclude that God loves a "hilarious" giver. This is semantic anachronism similar to how *dynamis* is typically used/interpreted in Rom 1:16.

Where and when did the command for "tithing" come to pass? Certainly not in the NT as there's not a single verse that applies the OT tithe to Christians in the Church Age. The oldest records we have of a tithe being applied to NT believers is from the Roman Catholic Church in the 6th century:

As the Church expanded and various institutions arose, it became necessary to make laws which would insure the proper and permanent support of the clergy. The payment of tithes was adopted from the Old Law, and early writers speak of it as a divine ordinance and an obligation of conscience. The earliest positive legislation on the subject seems to be contained in the letter of the bishops assembled at Tours in 567 AD and the canons of the Council of Macon in 585 AD. ["Tithes," The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol 14.]

The Principle of Grace Giving (derived from 2 Cor 8-9)

1. Generously (Ex 36:3-7)
2. Regularly (1 Cor 16:2a)
3. Voluntarily (2 Cor 9:7a)
4. Joyfully (2 Cor 9:7b)
5. Worshipfully (Acts 10:1-4)
6. Proportionately (1 Cor 16:2b)
7. Sacrificially (2 Cor 8:3)
8. Quietly (Matt 6:1-4)

8 And God is able to make **all** grace overflow to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an **abundance** for every good deed;

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;

8 Besides, God is able to make every blessing of yours overflow for you, so that in every situation you will always have all you need for any good work.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

- "...all" - not an exaggeration

- "...abundance" - this letter opened with abundant suffering matched by abundant comfort (2 Cor 1:5); abundant grace (2 Cor 4:15) and abundant joy and liberty (2 Cor 8:2) allows us to abound in every good work (Luke 6:38).

9 as it is written: "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."

9 as it is written, "He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, His righteousness endures forever."

9 As it is written, "He scatters everywhere and gives to the poor; his righteousness lasts forever."

9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

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;

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;

10 Now he who supplies seed to the farmer and bread to eat will also supply you with seed and multiply it and enlarge the harvest that results from your righteousness.

10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

11 In every way you will grow richer and become even more generous, and this will cause others to give thanks to God because of us,

11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

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.

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.

12 since this ministry you render is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, it is also overflowing with more and more prayers of thanksgiving to God.

12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

- Priestly service—spiritual “sacrifices” if given in the name of Jesus (1 Peter 2:5; Heb 13:15-16; Phil 4:10-20)

— Grace never looks for a reason; it only looks for an opportunity.

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,

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,

13 Because your service in giving proves your love, you will be glorifying God as you obey what your confession of the Messiah’s gospel demands, since you are generous in sharing with them and with everyone else.

13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;

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

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

14 And so in their prayers for you they will long for you because of God’s exceptional grace that was shown to you.

14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.

- Without Him we can’t. Without us, He won’t.

15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

Appendix: Stewardship

Learn the supernatural elements of stewardship. This is the solution to all financial problems.

Man’s purposes for money:

- (1) provide for security
- (2) establish independence

(3) create power and influence

	Man's Way	God's Way
Focus:	power and position	submission
Emphasis:	rights and freedom	personal responsibility
Desire:	gain for self	meet the needs of others
Concern:	immediate fulfillment	lasting achievement
Yearning:	praise of men	approval of God
Aspiration:	to be served	to serve others
Need:	to push ahead	for patience
Striving:	to lead men	to follow God
Interest:	competition	cooperation
Motivation:	self-glorification	God's Glory

Financial Freedom = realizing true prosperity comes only from God (Deut 8:18) and committing ourselves to God's purposes for money (Matt 6:30)

God's Four Purposes for Money

- (1) Provision - 1 Kings 17:4
- (2) Direction - 1 Kings 17:7
- (3) Fellowship - 1 Kings 17:9
- (4) Demonstration - James 5:17

(1) To Provide Basic Needs (Matt 6:26,28-30; 1 Tim 6:8)

- To establish daily dependence on Him (vs. Eden) (Matt 6:11)
- To deepen our love for the Lord (Col 2:10; John 15:5) (vs. Israel in wilderness)
- To develop a spirit of gratefulness
- To teach us to live within our means (1 Tim 6:6)
- To help us enjoy our possessions (Heb 13:5) (vs. discontent)

(2) To Confirm Direction (Ps 37:7)

- To build our faith and vision
- To determine who is the Lord of our life (1 Tim 6:17)
- To protect us from harmful items (1 Tim 6:9)
- To teach us patience (Rom 5:3; James 1:3-4)
- To concentrate on true riches (Phil 3:7-8)

(3) To Give to Christians (Rom 12:3)

- To unite Christians (2 Cor 8:14)
- To demonstrate the mark of a Christian (Titus 2:14; 2 Cor 9:8)

- To initiate spontaneous thanksgiving (2 Cor 9:11)
- To multiply the potential for giving (2 Cor 9:6)

(4) To Illustrate God's Power

- To cause Christians to trust Him (1 Kings 18:21-40)
- To mock the false gods of our age
- To purify our lives and motives (Ps 66:18)
- To bring non-Christians to salvation (Acts 5:12-14)
- To glorify God (Ps 50:15)