

2 Corinthians 9

Note: "Achaia" refers to the Roman province we know today as Greece

2 Corinthians 9.1-5

V 1-5 – An introduction to the principle of generous giving

V 1 – **Why was it not necessary for Paul to describe the need for money?** They knew about the need already

-Note: The word "ministry" refers to a special talent a Christian might have, and some Christians have the talent of making money

-They are to devote themselves to helping their fellow saints

V 2 – **Were the Corinthians antagonistic to helping the poor saints in Jerusalem?** No, they were ready

-**What had Paul bragged about to others?** The liberality of the Corinthians

-**What had this bragging done?** It had caused other congregations to give more!

V 3 – **Why had Paul sent brethren to Corinth?** To make sure that his boasting was not in vain

V 4 – That would have been embarrassing

V 5 – **Did Paul use any psychology on the Corinthians?** "Bountiful" gift, not affected by covetousness

2 Corinthians 9.6-9

V 6 – **First principle?** Sow sparingly results in reaping sparingly (and vice-versa)

-Read Prov. 11.24-25, 19.17, 22.9, Matt. 10.42, Matt. 25.34ff

-**Is this principle true in farming?** Yes

-**And for Christians also?** Yes

-For those who have been treasurers of a congregation (as this writer has been), the ones who give the least are the unhappiest, the grumblers, the spiritually sick, etc.

-And those who are the most generous are the happiest members of the congregation

-Note: We don't give just to make more money, but v 6 is an assurance that God will bless us

V 7 – **Second principle?** We purpose in our hearts

-The writer of these notes is not in favor of "purpose cards" to be given to the elders

-We purpose in our own hearts to God to give a certain amount

-**Should we give God the leftovers?** Absolutely not

-**Should we publish the contributions (who gave what)?** No

-**Summarize the proper attitude toward generous giving:** A generous heart (not because of public opinion, or from being forced to give)

-**Why should it be a joy to give to the church?** There is no-one else to do it; the work depends on us to keep it going

V 8 – **The promise of God?** He will take care of us

-**Read Psalm 37.25** – no begging bread

- "Miser" – sometimes in the news we will read of a "miser" who dies, and huge amounts of money are found that he has saved over the years

- What a miserable way to die

V 9 – A quote from *Psalm 112.9* – describing the righteous man

- **Did the Jews in the Old Testament have an obligation to help the poor?** Yes: by not harvesting the corners of the fields, no going through the fields twice, etc.

Read Lev. 19.9-10

2 Corinthians 9.10-15

V 10 – **What will God do for a liberal giver?** Give him more seed for sowing and more blessings (everything comes from God anyway)

V 11 – The Corinthians' giving was causing people to be more thankful

- "Through us" – Paul was sort of a middleman in this project

V 12 – **Two benefits of this collection?**

1. Physical (food to eat)
2. Spiritual (a thankful attitude)

V 13 – Because of the liberality of the Corinthians, their "confession" was proven

- In other words, liberal giving is part of being a Christian

- Maybe word of problems at Corinth had gotten to Jerusalem; many doubts there were cleared up

V 14 – **What did the Jerusalem Christians do to repay the Corinthian Christians?** They prayed for them

V 15 – **The gift?** The grace of God (or Jesus Christ)

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