

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH"

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



The Second Corinthian Letter Chapter 9

2 CORINTHIANS 9

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

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. 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; 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. ⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go

DON'T EMBARRASS YOURSELF WITH MEDIOCRITY

- ☼ What does the word "superfluous" mean?
- ☼ Why would it be superfluous for Paul to write the Corinthians about this ministry?
- ☼ When Paul uses the word "readiness" and "boast" about the Corinthians, what has he said about the Corinthians and all the churches in Achaia to the Macedonians?
- ☼ What effect had this had on the churches of Macedonia?
- ☼ Interestingly enough, what is Paul now telling the Corinthians about the Macedonians?
- ☼ Is it a good thing to have such competition in doing good?
- ☼ What does Paul seem worried about in vs. 3?
- ☼ What had Paul done to avoid any embarrassment?
- ☼ What does Paul mean by "prepared"?
- ☼ What would have happened if the Macedonian representatives arrived with Paul and found the Corinthians unprepared?
- ☼ What would the Macedonians think of the Corinthians?
- ☼ What would the Macedonians think of Paul?
- ☼ What would the Corinthians feel like?
- ☼ Is "shame" a big deal in this culture?

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.

- ☀ What do you imagine Titus and the others would be doing as they arrived in Corinth regarding this “previously promised bountiful gift”?

- ☀ How would covetousness effect the bountiful gift?

- ☀ Does covetousness effect bountiful giving today?

WHAT WILL YOU GET FROM GENEROSITY?

- ☀ Explain this farming metaphor about sowing...

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

- ☀ How does that translate to giving?

- ☀ What is the standard of giving here? Tithing or...?

⁷ Each one must do just as he has
purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or
under compulsion, for God loves a
cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make

- ☀ What does “purposed” mean?

- ☀ How can a person give grudgingly? Do we sometimes do this?

- ☀ How does a person give under compulsion? Do we sometimes feel this way?

all grace abound to you, so that always
having all sufficiency in everything, you
may have an abundance for every good
deed; ⁹ as it is written,

- ☀ What makes for cheerful giving?

- ☀ In vs. 8 Paul is returning to the idea of abundant sowing; what is God able to do with generous, cheerful giving?

- ☀ Is this proof of “the health and wealth gospel”?

- ☀ What does it really mean?

- ☀ Why would God be inclined to bless the cheerful, generous giver?

“HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE
GAVE TO THE POOR,
HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES
FOREVER.”

- ☀ This OT quote comes from Psalm 112:9 — please explain how this helps to encourage the Corinthian Christians to give to Paul’s project.

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; ¹¹ you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing 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. 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, ¹⁴ while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

- ☼ Who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food?
- ☼ What is the promise Paul is making to the Corinthian givers?
 - ☼ What is implied in “multiply your seed for sowing”?
 - ☼ Why would God do that?
 - ☼ What does it mean to “increase the harvest of your righteousness”?
- ☼ Why would God be inclined to bless His people who are giving liberally to things God would care about (e.g., feeding the hungry, supporting missionaries, etc.)?
- ☼ What would people doing who would be receiving these gifts? (see the latter part of vs. 11)
- ☼ These gifts were were not only supplying the needs of fellow Christians, but also doing what? (vs. 12)
- ☼ These gifts would...
 - ☼ _____
 - ☼ _____
 - ☼ _____
- ☼ Why would Jewish Christians glorify God? (vs. 13)
 - ☼ Paraphrase: “obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ”.
 - ☼ This obedience to their confession led to what?
- ☼ Why would Jewish Christians pray for Gentile churches?
 - ☼ How did Jewish Christians probably view Gentile churches before all this?
- ☼ What do you think this “indescribable gift” that Paul thanks God for?

