

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

August 10, 2022

Series - *The Life and Writings of the Apostle Paul*

The Corinthian Letters

The Last Letter (Second Corinthians)

Text – 2 Corinthians 9 – *The Offering for Jerusalem, Continued*

Memory Verse - 2 Corinthians 9:7

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

Introduction

Paul will now conclude his plea for the collection for the saints at Jerusalem in chapter nine, which he began in the last chapter. He reminds them of their readiness to give a year prior to this letter; and he reminds them of the blessings that will await them if they sow bountifully. Finally, he shows them what their giving will accomplish for the glory of God.

I. Their Readiness to Give - Titus and the “Brothers” are Sent Ahead (vs.1 – 5)

Paul had been boasting to the churches in Macedonia of the readiness of the church at Corinth to give. He sent Titus and the “brothers” ahead of him to remind them of this. He did not want to catch them off guard. Paul did not want them to be *ashamed* (or himself *ashamed*) by their not being ready to give when he showed up there with some of the folks that he had been bragging to about them.

A. Paul stated that Corinth was ready to give last year.

B. Paul shared (boasted) this readiness with the saints in Macedonia.

C. Paul sent Titus and the “brothers” ahead to remind them of their readiness.

Note – the word *superfluous* in verse one means excessive; more than is necessary or sufficient.

The word *forwardness* in verse 2 means readiness or willingness. This is the opposite of ~~forwardness~~, which means not willing to yield. *forwardness* Prov - 2:14; 6:14

The word *bounty* in verse 5 is the word *eulogia* meaning blessing or benefit. 10:32

II. The Reminder to Give Bountifully - The Principle of Sowing and Reaping (vs. 6 – 11)

A. He explains how they were to sow.

1. bountifully – to be a blessing
2. cheerfully – happily and willingly
3. grudgingly – out of guilt
4. not of necessity – because they were forced to

B. He explains what they were to reap (Malachi 3:10 -12)

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. (Luke 6:38)

1. If they sowed bountifully and cheerfully, they would reap bountifully
 - a. all grace would abound
 - b. all sufficiency in all things
 - c. abound to every good work
 - d. bread for your food
 - e. multiply your seed sown
 - f. increase the fruits of your righteousness
 - g. enriched (made wealthy) in everything to all bountifulness
2. If they sowed sparingly, grudgingly, or of necessity, they would reap sparingly.

Note – This is not a principle that can be applied to the tithe. The tithe is set. It is ten percent automatically given to God. God expects you to tithe. This collection for the saints at Jerusalem is a free-will offering, which is over and above the tithe.

III. The Reason for Giving - The Success Accomplished through Giving (vs. 11b – 15)

A. There will be a supplying of needs because of your giving.

B. There will be thanksgiving to God because of your giving.

- C. There will be praying for you because of your giving.
- D. There will be blessings for you because of your giving