

## Paul's Fourth Letter to the Corinthians – Part 3 (Fall 54)

### 2 Corinthians 8–9

#### The Generosity of the Macedonians

8:1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;  
 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.  
 3 For to *their* power, I bear record, yea, and beyond *their* power *they were* willing of themselves;  
 4 Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and *take upon us* the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.  
 5 And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.  
 6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

#### Paul Urges the Corinthians to Give Liberally

7 Therefore, as ye abound in every *thing*, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.  
 8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.  
 9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.  
 10 And herein I give *my* advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago.  
 11 Now therefore perform the doing of *it*; that as *there was* a readiness to will, so *there may be* a performance also out of that which ye have.  
 12 For if there be first a willing mind, *it is* accepted according to that a man hath, *and* not according to that he hath not.

#### Paul's Desire for Equality

13 For *I mean* not that other men be eased, and ye burdened:  
 14 But by an equality, *that* now at this time your abundance *may be a supply* for their want, that their abundance also may be a *supply* for your want: that there may be equality:  
 15 As it is written, He that *had gathered* much had nothing over; and he that *had gathered* little had no lack. [[Exod 16:18](#)]

#### The Delegates and Their Credentials

16 But thanks *be* to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.  
 17 For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you.  
 18 And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise *is* in the gospel throughout all the churches;  
 19 And not *that* only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and *declaration of your ready mind*:  
 20 Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us:  
 21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men. [cf. [Prov 3:4](#)]  
 22 And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which *I have* in you.  
 23 Whether *any do enquire* of Titus, *he is* my partner and fellow-helper concerning you: or our brethren *be enquired of*, *they are* the messengers of the churches, *and* the glory of Christ.  
 24 Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.

#### The Need for Readiness

9:1 For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you:  
 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.  
 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 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 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.

#### Divine Principles of Giving

6 But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.  
 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.  
 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:  
 9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. [[Ps 112:9](#)])

- 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 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us 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;
- 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 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.
- 15 Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.

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