**The Cheerful Giver**

**2 Corinthians 9**

From the Greek City of Philippi Paul is writing to another Greek City, Corinth. The second letter is a follow up to the first letter which was in Paul’s opinion – a little harsh.

BUT… the Corinthians received the letter well… They had agreed with the Apostle Paul… Repented, corrected and were doing well.

THIS EPORT of course had come from Titus, Paul’s partner, and messenger.

SO… In the last chapter Paul had begun to talk about giving. He will conclude that subject in chapter 9 with a statement that we all know by heart: That “God loves a cheerful giver.”

**2 Corinthians 9:1** Now concerning the ministering to the saints, **(In Jerusalem)** it is unnecessary for me to write to you; **You got this**! 2 for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority.

* So, even at the beginning of that New Testament Church, the churches around the world came together to support believers around the world who were less fortunate that themselves.
* AND… 2000 years later, we are still at it, right? At CCSV we support:
	+ The very poor believers in Haiti… The homeless in Simi Valley and Ventura county… We help care for “at risk” mothers here in Simi Valley… We provide care for the unborn at our CPC…
	+ Along with hundreds of other churches from around our community and nation we join together to help.

**BE READY TO GIVE**

3 Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, you may be ready; 4 lest if *some* Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting.

* **NLT** - We would be embarrassed—not to mention your own embarrassment—if some Macedonian believers came with me and found that you weren't ready after all I had told them!

5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which *you had* previously promised, that it may be ready as *a matter of* generosity and not as a grudging obligation.

* **WRAPPED AND READY…** If youhave ever had to give a gift that you did not have time to wrap, then you have experienced the embarrassment that Paul is trying to avoid.
	+ Don’t you just LOVE getting a gift that is wrapped with ribbon and bow? It shows that some forethought went into it. (**As opposed to gift bags** ☹) To me gift bags say, “Here! Here’s your stupid present!”
* Paul did not want people scurrying around trying to put together the money while the couriers were waiting to leave for Jerusalem.

**The Cheerful Giver**

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

* SO… Here are some important principles of giving…
	+ 1. OVER SEED! If you have ever put in a lawn using seed you know to use more seed than the instructions tell you to. Right?
	+ The last thing you want is to sew seed, wait the two weeks it takes for the seed to germinate, and THEN find out that you were too skimpy with the seed.
	+ **Psalm 41**:**1** says Blessed *is* he who considers the poor; The LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. 2 The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive, *And* he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies.
	+ **See also**: Hebrews 6:10, 13:16, Prov. 19:17, 3:27, Romans 12:13, Matt. 5:16, 25:44,45. Deuteronomy 15:10. EX 35:5.
	+ SO… Be generous in giving and God will bless you too. NOT like the shyster TV preachers claim, but in ways that are eternal! **“If everything TV preachers said about giving was true… Tithing would be offered by every investment firm…”**
	+ There is another good principle in V7…

**PRINCIPLE #2**

7 So let each one *give* as he purposes **(Strong’s - choose for oneself before another thing)** in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

* SO… For YOUR sakes, not mine… Move forward with your giving…
* **Malachi 3:10** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And **try Me now** in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will* not *be room* enough *to receive it.*
* TRY THIS for fun… Leave a few bucks in you pocket for Salvation Army bell ringers… Stop and give… THEN see what the Lord does in return… You’re welcome… In advance 😊

**WHERE GOD GUIDES GOD PROVIDES**

8 And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things,* may have an abundance for every good work.

9 As it is written: "HE HAS DISPERSED ABROAD, HE HAS GIVEN TO THE POOR; HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER." **PSALM 112:9**

* Beloved, God WANTS you to have abundant blessing! He really does! His plan is to bless His people by using His people as blessings!
* SO… Give Him the capacity to fill you with blessings!
* Listen… When you have stuff to move – be it furniture, or dirt… You don’t ask people to bring their motorcycles over to help. You call your friends with trucks and muscles!
* Be available for God to bless because you are going to be a blessing to others.

**PAUL CLOSES THIS SECTION IN PRAYER**

10 Now may He who supplies seed to the Sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

**THANKSGIVING TO GOD**

12 For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many **thanksgivings to God**, 13 while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, 14 and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.

* **NLT** - So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express thanks to God. 13 As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. 14 And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you.

15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

* COURSON - Due to the immensity of Greek vocabulary and the precision of its tenses, voices, and moods, there has never been a language as exact as Greek. And of all the writers, philosophers, historians, and poets who wrote in Greek, none had a command of the language to rival the apostle Paul's. Yet, as he gave the Corinthians the foundational reason why they should be people who give, when this master of language tried to describe God's gift to us, Paul was speechless—for truly Jesus is too wonderful for words.

**CCSV**, Let us be people who give above and beyond normal this week. Let us prove the indescribable gift of God with His love!