

II Corinthians Chapter 8 and 9, Handout #6

These two chapters have to do with the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem (mostly Jewish Christians) begun a year ago, the administration of that collection by Titus and two other brothers, good examples of giving, and principles of giving.

Chapter 8

v.1-5 - Paul points out the example of the generosity of the Macedonians (Thessalonica, Philippi, Berea) who begged to be a part of giving for the collection for the Jerusalem saints; who themselves were poor but gave generously, even beyond Paul's expectation; who rededicated themselves to the Lord, and to Paul's authority.

v.6-8 - Titus got you started and we want him to help you complete it. You Corinthians abound in all kinds of blessings and gifts, and so you should abound in giving. You should excel in giving.

v. 9 - Christ was our perfect example of giving: "...that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

V10 - 15 - Paul lays out the purpose for giving. First, the Corinthians had zealously desired to give an offering and had begun to collect a year ago. It was their zeal that inspired the Macedonians to want to give. The Corinthians were certainly wealthier than the Macedonians, although Paul was not advocating that they become poor to make the saints in Jerusalem rich. When one is blessed in abundance, you can help others, and when others are blessed in abundance, they can help you. An Equality.

V16-24 - Paul was sending Titus and two other brothers to be over the collection and to accompany him (Paul) when he took collection to Jerusalem so that no one could say that he used the monies collected for himself. The collection would show proof of their love and prove out his boasting of them to the saints in Jerusalem (the Gentiles were truly Christians).

Chapter 9

v. 1-5 - Paul knew already that they were ready to give and knew all the reasons why. He was sending Titus and the brethren to help make it happen, lest his boasting of them should be in vain. They would spend time with them and help them collect the money before Paul arrived. Then they would give because they wanted to and not because they were compelled to by his presence.

v.6-7 - principles in giving: sow sparingly, reap sparingly; sow bountifully, reap bountifully. As you purpose in your heart, give. God loves a cheerful giver.

v.8 - Promises from giving: 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. (God will bless you with everything you need, and you will have more than enough to do things for others.)

v.9-15 - God blesses with the resources to give and supplies all needs. Generosity in giving causes needs to be met and thanksgiving to God.

Thanks be to God for his unspeakable (too wonderful for words)