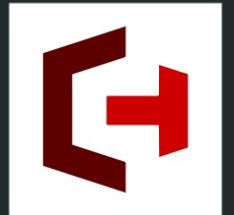


2 Corinthians 9

Verse by Verse



**Paul's
Defense of
His Ministry**



2 Corinthians 9

Godly Giving: Part 2



Introduction

The Text of
2 Corinthians 9

Conclusions

Introduction to 2 Corinthians 9



**Previously in
2 Corinthians**

**What's in
2 Corinthians 9**

Key Verses



Previously in 2 Corinthians

And
Previously in
1 Corinthians

There are **four main themes** in 2 Corinthians.
In the first seven chapters we saw something on
each of the first three:

1. Paul Explains His Ministry.
2. Paul Asserts His Authority.
3. Paul Declares God's Comfort.

In Chapter 8, Paul began dealing with this last one,
4. Paul Encourages Their Generosity.

And Previously in 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 1 Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. 2 On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. 3 And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. 4 If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.



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Introduction to 2 Corinthians 9



**Previously in
2 Corinthians**

**What's in
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Key Verses



What's in 2 Corinthians 9?

Map

- **Chapters 8 and 9** make up a section in which Paul encourages generous giving for the church in Judea.
- **In Chapter 9** Paul specifically deals with **attitudes and motivation for giving**.
- He still mentions that the Corinthians have been willing to give for some time.
- That makes anything they do now part of their follow through on prior commitments.





What's in 2 Corinthians 9?

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Introduction to 2 Corinthians 9



**Previously in
2 Corinthians**

**What's in
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Key Verses



Key Verses

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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**Give to Bless
Others
9:1-5**

**Give to Be
Blessed
9:6-11**

**Give to
Glorify God
9:12-15**



Give to Bless Others 9:1-5

The Offering
Is a Ministry

The Offering
Is a Blessing

From Warren
Wiersbe

- Paul had evidently used the enthusiasm of the Corinthians to help motivate the Macedonians.
- He reminds them that they (*Achaia*, v.2) have been "ready since last year."
- Now he uses the Macedonian response to help motivate the Corinthians.
- Paul does not want them to be embarrassed after the things that he said about them in Macedonia.

The Offering Is a Ministry

Acts 6:1-4

9:1 Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints.

- **ministry** = *diakonia*, Used of various forms of serving. Also "service" in 9:12 and 13.
- Luke uses this word of the ministry of the apostles (Acts 1:17)
- Paul uses it of his own ministry (Acts 20:24, Romans 11:13)
- Used of the ministry of angels (Hebrews 1:14)
- Our point here is that giving for spiritual reasons becomes highly spiritual work.
- It is one way that all of us can serve God by blessing others.

Acts 6:1-4

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily **distribution**. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the **ministry** of the word.”

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9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction [grudging obligation (NKJV)].

- **gift (2x)** = *eulogia* blessing, praise, thanksgiving, the extolling of another; ... by extension, generosity and (giving of) gifts (from Mounce).
- Also used 2x in 9:6
- Our giving is not a neutral thing. It is a positive *blessing*. When combined with the word *ministry* or *service* we see that giving for God's purposes and with a right heart is an important way that we express our faith.



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Warren Wiersbe
(1929 - 2019),
pastor and Bible
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Apparently, Paul did not see anything wrong or unspiritual about asking people to promise to give. He did not tell them how much they had to promise, but he did expect them to keep their promise. When a person signs up for a telephone, he promises to pay a certain amount each month. If it is acceptable to make financial commitments for things like telephones, cars, and credit cards, certainly it ought to be acceptable to make commitments for the work of the Lord.



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The Text of 2 Corinthians 9



**Give to Bless
Others
9:1-5**

**Give to Be
Blessed
9:6-11**

**Give to
Glorify God
9:12-15**



Give to Be Blessed 9:6-11

Key Verses

Luke 6:38

From Tony
Evans

- Paul was not afraid to focus on the blessings that would come to the Corinthian believers as a result of their generous giving.
- Sometimes people focus on this too much, leading to a health and wealth, prosperity gospel.
- Other more cautious Bible teachers might be afraid to focus on it at all. This is also very unlike Paul - or Jesus.
- Chuck Smith liked to remind people that we are never going to outgive God.



Key Verses 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

On *Cheerful*
from Bill
Mounce

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully ["upon blessings"] will also reap bountifully [upon blessings]. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a **cheerful** giver.



Bill Mounce,
Expert in Biblical
Greek

cheerful = *hilaros*

cheerful, without grudging, with an implication of a gracious attitude; note that the transliteration hilarious does not communicate the meaning of this attitude

(from BillMounce.com)



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Luke 6:38 (ESV)

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Psalm 112:5-9 (ESV)

5 It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;
who conducts his affairs with justice.

6 For the righteous will never be moved;
he will be remembered forever.

7 He is not afraid of bad news;
his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.

8 His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,
until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.

9 **He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor;**
his righteousness endures forever;
his horn is exalted in honor.

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Paul is not promising that giving generously to gospel ministry will result in earthly, material prosperity and the elimination of all your problems ... But clearly there's a principle of sowing and reaping here that's not to be ignored. If you give generously to a legitimate need from sincere gospel motives when it is in your capacity to do so, God will give you his blessing.



Tony Evans, Bible Teacher
and Commentator



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Give to Glorify God 9:12-15

An Act of
Obedience

- When the needs of the saints are met, God is thanked for his goodness and generosity.
- 9:12-13 Twice more Paul uses the word "service," *diakonia* or "ministry," just as in v.1.
- We should consider it a blessing to take part in the ministry of giving, for we get to participate in God's work.
- He is providing for the needs of others through us.
- We should also glorify God when we see this trait of generosity active in other people's lives.

From Tony
Evans

2 Corinthians
9:15

An Act of Obedience

9:13 ... they will glorify God because of your submission ["obedience" (NIV, NKJV, NASB)] that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ ...

- Paul has already made it clear that the church's giving must come from a willing heart.
- That is the kind of generosity that God will most easily bless.
- At the same time, giving is not really optional in the Christian life - it is an act of obedience that is part of our confession of the gospel of Christ.
- Obedience to God will always be better than disobedience, but it is best when it is willing, cheerful and humbly submissive.



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When God's kingdom is given priority in your life, you open yourself to waves of grace that are bigger than your gift. History and eternity have more grace available than we could ever access. As a result, the fruit that comes through your service to his kingdom multiplies into greater benefit to you, greater blessings to others, and greater glory to God.



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2 Corinthians
9:15

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Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

- The word "inexpressible" that Paul uses here does not appear in any other Greek literature.
- It appears only in the New Testament and only in this verse.
- It is possible the Paul made it up.
- Other translations use words like "unspeakable (KJV) or "indescribable" (NKJV) for this word
- Clement of Rome later used it in his letter to this same Corinthian church in about 95 AD.
- When we consider God's gift of his Son, surely our words will fail us.

**From
Alan Redpath**

When God gives grace, He does not reluctantly open a little finger and maintain a clenched fist full of gifts. I would tell you today that God's hands are nail-pierced hands and they are wide open. This fountain of grace is always pouring itself out with no limitation on heaven's side at all.



Alan Redpath (1907 - 1989),
British evangelist and pastor

2 Corinthians 9:15

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2 Corinthians
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Godly Giving: Part 2



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Key Verses

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Warren
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**How did the
Corinthians
respond?**

**A Final
Prayer**



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Warren Wiersbe
(1929 - 2019),
pastor and Bible
teacher.

I suggest you read 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 again, and that you note the emphasis on the grace of God. If our churches and other ministries would get back to grace giving, there would be fewer high-pressure offering appeals, fewer gimmicks to raise funds, and fewer complaints from the people of God. Instead, there would be plenty of money available for the ministries that truly magnify the grace of God. And I think that the unsaved people in the world would sit up and take notice!

You and I are saved because God believed in grace giving.

Conclusions



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**How did the
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How did the Corinthians respond?

Romans 15:25-27

25 At present ... I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. **26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. 27 For they were pleased to do it,** and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.

Conclusions



Key Verses

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**How did the
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A Final Prayer

- Heavenly Father,
- Words cannot describe the gracious gift that you have given us in your Son Jesus Christ. We understand that we can never in all eternity outgive you.
- But we do want to be generous givers and take part in the blessing and the ministry that you offer to us.
- Teach us to use the resources you have given to us in such ways that we will be a blessing to your people and obedient servants to you.
- In Christ,
- Amen.

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