

Studies from 2 Corinthians
Pt. 13
2 Corinthians 9

Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, ² for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them. ³ But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. ⁴ Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. 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.

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. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

—2 Corinthians 9 (ESV)

vv 1-5 – Making sure...

The gift was important—as was establishing the principle itself of Christian support
The Corinthians wanted to participate, and had promised to participate... but had not
completely followed-through

vv 6-8 —“The point is this...”

And still is

More lit. The one who is sowing sparingly, sparingly also will reap; and the one who is
sowing blessings, blessings will also reap.

This is a picture of an active, ongoing lifestyle—not a principle based on a “one-off” gift.—The one *who is sowing*...

Sparingly—stingily, applied to monetary support, certainly, but more broadly to all of one’s lifestyle

“blessings”—*eulogia*, blessing or praise

The sense is that a person who actively brings blessing and praise (to God) into the lives of others will have blessing and praise brought into his own life

“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.”—Luke 6:38

This is a rock-solid, Biblical teaching and principle. A law (as in law of gravity) established by God.

We reap what we sow—and giving is “sowing.”

“each as he chooses in the heart...”

This is a *continuation* of “the point is this”

This, too, relates to all of one’s living, not just the attitude of the Corinthians regarding this particular gift

In the heart

With a heart of love for God

With a heart of love for others

With a heart of thanksgiving and a desire to bless others

With a heart that desires to see God praised and Jesus glorified

With a joyful and happy heart, glad for the opportunity to be a blessing to others
and a part of God’s ongoing work

With a heart of prayer and surrender

“not reluctantly or under compulsion...”

“reluctantly” does not quite capture it

Lit. not out of *lupe*! – pain, sorrow, grief!

East Texas Translation (ETT) – not all torn up about it!

Or from *anagké*—great force, “I absolutely must!”, “I have to!”

“for God loves a cheerful giver.”

The continuation, and conclusion, of “the point is”

A powerful six words

Loves – *agape*, God is *pleased with*, yes, and he *shows love to* a cheerful, joyous, ready giver

v 8 – “and God is able to make...”

Paul’s summary reinforces the sense of the passage

To make all *grace* about to you – this takes many forms and extends into eternity

Having all *sufficiency* in all things at all times
Having all that you need, without fail—"in all things at all times"
Lit. in everything always

"so that"!
God's blessings to you allow you to continue to abound in very good work!
Blessed, and blessing others; blessed, and blessing others...

v 9 – "As it is written..."
Psalm 112:9
This Psalm is the description of a righteous man—one who fears the Lord.
The same Biblical principle...

v 10 – "He who supplies..."
God will supply what you need, according to His call on your life, to sow seeds of
blessing resulting in the "harvest of your righteousness"

v 11 – "You will be enriched..."
This is a continuation of the previous verse: "in every way enriching you to all
generosity..."
Giving to you so that you can continue to give to others

"which though us will produce thanksgiving to God."
Now Paul brings the letter back to the specific offering being taken for Christians in
Jerusalem

vv 12-15—"For the ministry of this service..."
Paul reiterates all of the benefits—both material and spiritual—that will result from this
offering
He concludes with thanking God who has given to us the Gift of all Gifts—and to whom
we owe everything.