

II Corinthians

Attitude of a Giver

Lesson 8

II Corinthians 9:1-15

Introduction

Paul continues to urge the Corinthians to fulfill their commitment to make an offering. He mentions that he has boasted of their preparation to the Macedonians, and now fears that they will not carry through with their promise. To encourage them, he explains that he who gives sparingly will reap sparingly. He points out that God loves a cheerful giver, and the gift should be made voluntarily. The result of the gift would be that God would be glorified by many.

II Corinthians 9:1-15

Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, ²for 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. ³But 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. ⁴Otherwise, 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. ⁵So 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.

⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And 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. ⁹As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰He 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. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³By 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, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Proper Preparation - 9:1-5

1. What had Paul boasted to the Macedonians?
2. What did Paul now request of the Corinthians?
3. The Corinthians' gift was to be of what and not as what?

A Cheerful Giver - 9:6-15

1. What is the rule regarding sowing and reaping?
2. How should an individual give? What should not be the motivation?
3. What does God love?
4. What does God provide us with? What does this allow us to do?
5. What was to result from this offering (vs. 11-12)?
6. What would be the reaction of those who were to receive the gift (vs. 13-14)?
7. What do you think is the gift mentioned in vs. 15?