**2 Corinthians 9**

*Paul exhorts them to have their gift ready so that they would not be embarrassed by being unprepared* ***(cf. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).*** *He calls upon them to be cheerful and purposeful in their giving. (Synopsis by Stan Cox)*

1. Concerning the Collection for the Judean Saints **(8:1-9:15)**
2. Exhortations Concerning Giving **(9:1-15)**
   1. Readiness of the Gift **(9:1-5)**
      1. Superfluous writing of Paul **(vv. 1-2).**
         1. Paul’s writing may seem superfluous because he knows of their willingness **(vv. 1-2a).**
         2. Their zeal stirred up others to contribute as well **(v. 2b).**
      2. Messengers necessary anyway **(vv. 3-5).**
         1. Messengers sent lest the boasting of the Corinthians be in vain, and Macedonians with Paul should be ashamed, as well as the Corinthians **(vv. 3-4).**
         2. Messengers sent to prepare the gift beforehand, so it would be a matter of generosity, and not grudging obligation **(v. 5).**
   2. The Cheerful Giver Glorifies God **(9:6-15)**
      1. Cheerful and Liberal Giving **(vv. 6-11a).**
         1. You reap how you sow – sparingly, or bountifully **(v. 6).**
         2. For this reason, give as you have purposed, and cheerfully **(v. 7).**
         3. By the grace of God, they can have an abundance for every good work **(vv. 8-9).**
         4. Paul’s prayer that God will supply and increase the fruits of their righteousness **(v. 10).**
         5. God has enriched them for all liberality **(v. 11a).**
      2. The Effect of Cheerful and Liberal Giving **(vv. 11b-15).**
         1. These things cause thanksgiving to God **(v. 11b).**
         2. It supplies the needs of the saints **(v. 12a).**
         3. It abounds through many thanksgivings to God **(v. 12b).**
         4. It causes people to glorify God for the Corinthians’ obedience to the gospel, and their provision of this gift **(v. 13).**
         5. It produces prayer and longing for the Corinthians by the recipients **(v. 14).**
         6. Paul thanks God for *“His indescribable gift!”* **(v. 15)**

**Questions**

1. What is the importance of preparedness in benevolence, and general contribution in giving back to the Lord **(v. 5, 7)?**
2. Why is it appropriate that the thanksgivings abound to God, and not to the Corinthians who were to give **(vv. 8-15)?**