2 Corinthians 9

Title ideas: The Indescribable Gift! A Cheerful Giver! Ready, Willing and Generous!

### 2 Corinthians 9:1-15 – The Indescribable Gift!

Scriptures: Mark 6:45 - For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is Notes:

1248 - service, provision

Paul was not writing to them to be generous, but to remind them that they had promised to be generous and to encourage them to complete what they committed to do.

'ministering' - Jesus used the same Greek word to describe His mission to the world (Mark 6:45).

#### 4053 - excessive.

superfluous for me to write to you;

more than needed

Scriptures:

## <sup>2</sup> for **I** know your willingness, about which **I** boast

4288 - eagerness

Notes: 'majority' - who is the majority?

'stirred up the majority' - NASB reads 'stirred up most of them'

Our faith lived out inspires others to live out their faith more. One of the greatest evangelism tools is a real passion for God and His church.

'Achaia' region surrounding the city of Corinth. On the southern border of Macedonia.

of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready

a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the

2205 excessive fervor

2042 - provoke

majority. 4119 - 'The greater in number of two parts.

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 6:1 - We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

## <sup>3</sup> Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of

Notes: 'brethren' = Titus and two Macedonian men

'in vain' – same word used 2 Cor. 6:1 regarding their receiving the grace of God. Paul is tying their commitment to be generous with their faith. Their faithfulness to do what they said was proof of their faith.

you should be in vain in this respect, that, as 1

said, you may be ready;

Scriptures:

<sup>4</sup> lest if *some* Macedonians come with <u>me</u> and find

Notes: Paul is trying to prevent the Corinthians and himself from being embarrassed and humiliated. Paul had boasted about the readiness of the rich Corinthians which resulted in the poor Macedonians responding with generosity. He didn't want to be embarrassed if they arrived and the Corinthians weren't ready to do what they had said they would.

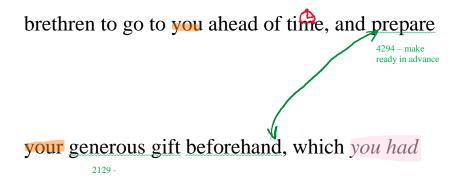
you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should 532 - unready

be ashamed of this confident boasting.

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 8:9 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

## <sup>5</sup> Therefore **I** thought it necessary to exhort the

Notes: "Mere giving itself is no sign of grace or redemption. It will save no one's soul. The giving of the redeemed is a response to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 8:9). Those who receive such grace give." (Hughes, 2006) page 172



## previously promised, that it may be ready as a

*matter of* generosity and not as a

grudging obligation.

4124 – greediness, avarice



Scriptures: Proverbs 11:24 -There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty.

## <sup>6</sup> But this *I say:* He who sows sparingly will also

5340 – 'To a meager degree or in a meager manner.'

### reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will

2129 – literally 'with blessings'

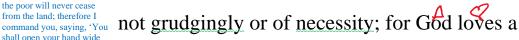
## also reap bountifully.

2129 - literally 'with blessings'

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 15:10-11 -You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand. 11 For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.'

## <sup>7</sup> So let each one give as he purposes in his heart,

4255 – decide beforehand, determine



3077 – regret, sadness 318 - compulsion

#### Notes:

God gives back blessings to people who generously give to bless others. It is not a one-for-one transaction. It is about the heart to bless. It is not about receiving a reward for our generosity. A heart that is openly generous to bless others is open to receive God's abundant blessings. On the other hand, a heart closed to blessing others or stingy or seeking a reward from blessing others, is not open to receive God's abundance.

"Great generosity births exponential blessing. Here is the bottom line: We are to be generous people. What we give, though material, glows with the golden light of eternity. Generosity unleashes that light. To be generous is divine." (Hughes, 2006) page 173

"It is a fact that those who develop the habit of generosity are blessed of God. But it is a mistake to think of these rewards or blessings as always being material." (Chafin, 1985) page 261

#### Notes:

This call to cheerful giving is ancient (Deut. 15:10-11). Had to do with the Sabbatical Year, but for New Covenant Christians it is to be a daily reality.

Ebenezer Scrooge was a wealthy miser who came to realize that generosity was the right way to live. A Christian Scrooge is a contradiction of terms.

'purposes' – giving should be a purposeful and deliberate act.

'cheerful' – Greek word can be translated 'hilarious'

## cheerful giver.

2431 – cheerfully happy 1395 -



Scriptures: Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

2 Peter 1:2-4 - Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

## <sup>8</sup> And God *is* able to make all grace abound

4052 - to make plentiful

## toward you, that you, always having all

#### <u>sufficiency</u> in all *things*, may have an abundance <sup>841</sup>- adequacy

for every good work.

Notes:

"The simple truth is, God will give us what we need to give to others – we will always be rich enough to be generous." (Hughes, 2006) page 174

If we doubt the statement above we are doubting the grace of God.

"The challenge for us is not our wealth or lack of it, but belief and obedience." (Hughes, 2006) page 175

God established 'good works' for each of us (Eph. 2:10) and then is able to provide everything we need to accomplish those good works (2 Pet. 1:2-4).

Why doe it say 'God is <u>able</u> to make all grace abound' rather than 'God <u>will</u> make all grace abound'? This could point to the reality that our faith plays a role in our experience of the grace of God.

It is God who gives us the resources and God who gives us the grace of giving. All we supply is faith, which God also gives.

God will be a debtor to no man. If you exercise the grace of /god, the grace of giving, God will bless you accordingly, though not necessarily materially.

"God is able to make all grace abound toward you as you give of your substance to Him." (Ironside, 1938) page 427

<sup>9</sup> As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He

Notes: Generosity is a proof of righteousness.

Psalm 112:9 -He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever; His horn will be exalted with honor.

has given to the poor; His righteousness endures

forever.

<sup>10</sup> Now may He who supplies seed to the sower,

Notes: God knows what we need.

2023 -

and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed

4129 - increase, grow in numbers

you have sown and increase the fruits of your

righteousness,

134

Isaiah 55:10-11 -For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there,

Scriptures:

But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud,

That it may give seed to the sower

And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;

It shall not return to Me void,

But it shall accomplish what I please,

And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Mark 4:8 - But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.

Hosea 10:12 -Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD,

Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

Matthew 6:31-34 -"Therefore do not worry,

saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear? 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

 $^{11}$  while you are enriched in everything for all  $_{\rm 4148-to\ be\ made}^{\rm 4148-to\ be\ made}$ 

Notes: 'enriched...for all liberality' – we are given so that we can be generous.

Our believing generosity produces thanksgiving to God from those who have benefited from our generosity.

## liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us

572 - generosity

to God.

135

supplies the needs of the saints, but also is

abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

<sup>13</sup> while, through the proof of this ministry, they <sup>1382 - evidence,</sup> validation

Notes: Our believing generosity also results in glory to God.

"The Corinthians' embrace of the gospel would be proved not only by their confession of belief but by their submission to the grace of giving and their generous contribution to the poor church in Jerusalem." (Hughes, 2006) page 176

glorify God for the obedience of your confession

to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal

sharing with them and all men,

Scriptures:

<sup>14</sup> and by their prayer for you, who long for you

because of the exceeding grace of God in you.



The recipients of the grace of giving (the church in Jerusalem) would praise God for the righteousness of the Corinthians and express thankfulness to God and glorify Him because of the generosity.

Generous giving also produces a bond of affection between churches thus knitting the body of Christ more closely together.

"...what looked like money-raising project was in reality a kingdombuilding event." (Chafin, 1985) page 263

"Giving blesses those who give, those who receive, and the kingdom of God." (Chafin, 1985) page 263

# <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

411 – inexpressible, unspeakable

Only occurrence!

Notes: Paul concludes these two chapters with an expression of joy and awe.

The grace of God is an 'indescribable gift' not to be earned simply received by faith. The ultimate expression of God's grace is Jesus Christ.

These two chapters are not a call to give more, but to receive more of God's grace through faith. It is a call to repentance and redemption. It is not a call to legalistic observance but to grace.