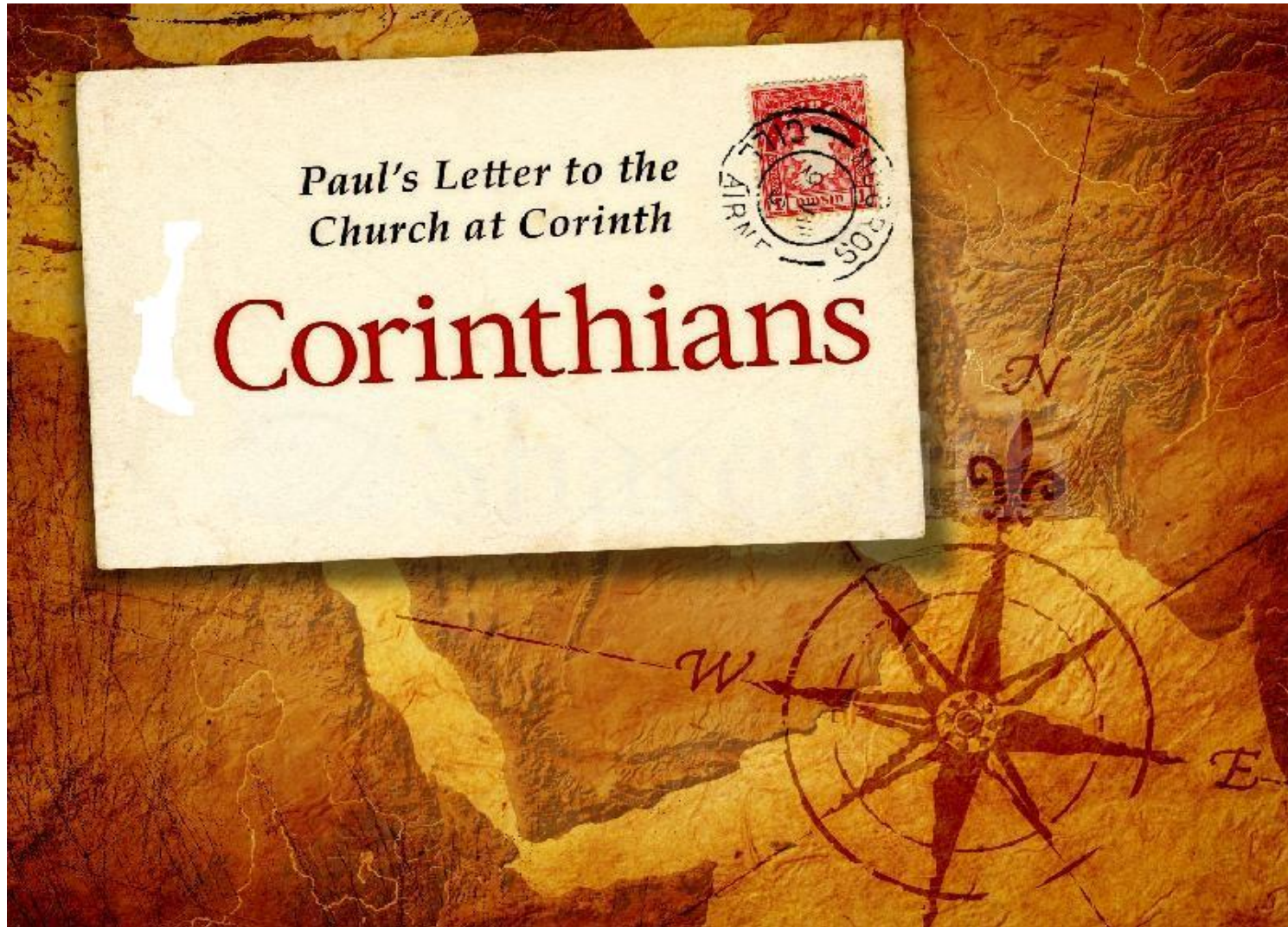


2 Cor 9:1-6 Readiness of Mind in Giving



Outline*



Giving of oneself and financially:

- is out from God's grace - 8:1-6
- is a proof of our love - 8:7-15
- is to the glory of God - 8:16-24
- is called a readiness of mind by Paul - 9:1-6
- is not grudgingly or out of necessity - 9:7-11
- is out from God's grace & sufficiency - 9:12-15

Biblical Principles on Giving in 2 Cor 8:1-6*



Three Biblical Principles on Our Giving

1. Giving of ourselves to the Lord is primary 2Cor 8:5; Rom 12:1-2
2. Giving of ourselves to the ministry of God's eternal purpose
2Cor 8:5; 3:1 – 4:18
3. Giving of our finances to the needs of others
2Cor 8:1-5; Phil 4:10,15-18

Two Other Principles on Giving

- Giving is a grace
 - Our giving (ourselves to the Lord & ministry, and financially is a grace gift – out from God's grace) 2Cor 8:1,4,6,7,9,16,19; 9:8,15
- Giving is a fellowship (*koinonia*) 2Cor 8:4; Phil 1:5,15
 - It's our sharing in common in the totality of God's eternal purpose with others for the edification of the body of Christ.

Christian Giving *

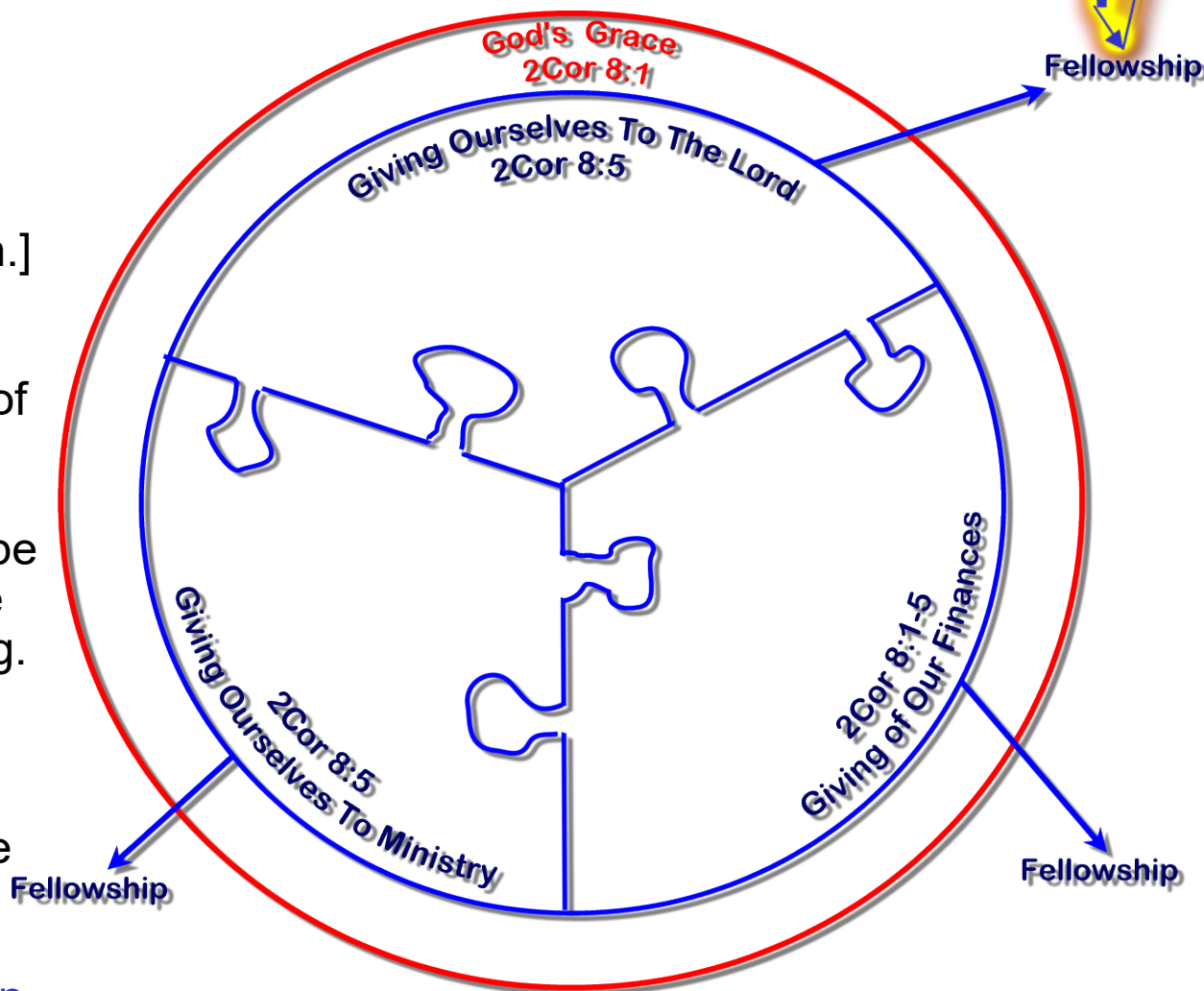


The exhortation:

Just as you abound in your response to the glory of Christ also abound in grace giving.

2 Cor 8:7

- “**abound**” - *perisseuo* - to excel as the effect of God’s grace [present ten.]
- Grace giving is the manifestation of the life of Christ within.
- The grace of God must be owned – knowing it’s the only source of true giving.
- Financial giving is meaningless unless we first give ourselves to the Lord.



Observe: This is an exhortation, not a command, to Christian giving.

Overview from 1 Cor.16 and Chp 8**



Concern:

The ministry
or collection
for the poor
saints at
Jerusalem.

Background:

- Paul requested that all the churches* put aside their gift every week as God has prospered them.
- So that when Paul came there would be no collection.

Status:

- The churches of Macedonia responded immediately.
- The Corinthian church had a readiness of mind then and still do.
- They started their gift a year ago but have not completed it so they are not ready.
- One year has passed and Paul sends trusted brothers to help.

* Galatia, Macedonia, Achaia

Today's Verses



¹ For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints; ² for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, *namely*, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them. ³ But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared; ⁴ otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to speak of you—will be put to shame by this confidence. ⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness. ⁶ Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.



¹ For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints;

For it is superfluous for me to write to you [Corinthians]

superfluous - *perissos* - abundant, more than sufficient

- It was beyond what was required or necessary for Paul to write to them about the ministry Molloy

about this ministry to the saints

What is the ministry?

Who are the saints?

- It seems that the Corinthian Christians had heard about the collection (Gr. *logeias*, extra collection) Paul was getting together for the poor saints in Jerusalem and wanted to make a contribution. Constable



PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

² for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, *namely*, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them



Perfect,
Indicative,
Active

I know - *oida* – to know factually

- lit: I have known
- Paul was in a settled state about this matter.
- Next, we have what Paul knew about **you** Corinthians

readiness - *prothymia* - eagerness, willingness, readiness

- The idea is “readiness of mind.”
- He knew their desire was out from God’s grace & not out from themselves.*
- He knew that they were totally sincere. * Molloy

² for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.



I **boast** - *kauchaomai* - to glory or to boast: is always translated in the RV by the verb "**to glory**," where the AV uses the verb "**to boast**"

- Would Paul be boasting either about himself or other believers? Or would he be glorifying & thanking God for them? *
- Phil 3:3b who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh
- Paul is glorifying God for the Corinthians and their desire and zeal to serve the Lord. * Molloy

² for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.



that Achaia [speaking of the Corinthians] has been prepared since last year,

- a repeat of Chp 8:10b who [Corinthians] were the first to begin a year ago not only to do this, but also to desire to do it – speaking of their readiness

and your zeal has stirred up most of them

zeal - *zēlos* - to be hot, fervent, a fervent mind

- Their mind set was passionate about supporting this ministry.

stirred up - *erethízō* - to incite or stimulate to action

- This zeal affected most of them at Corinth.

³ But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared;



But – even though you are stirred up about this ministry

I have sent the brethren [Titus and two others]

in order that – with a purpose that

that our boasting [glorying] **about you** [Corinthians]

may not be made empty in this case

be made empty - *kenóō* - empty, void; to make empty

- Meaning to empty oneself, to divest oneself of rightful dignity by descending to an inferior condition. Molloy
- Next, we will see the possible results of this being made empty.
- Paul’s purpose is that **“you may be prepared.”**



4 otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to speak of you—will be put to shame by this confidence.

otherwise if [as is the case] any Macedonians come with me and find you [Corinthians] unprepared

- We are expecting your gift to be ready [i.e. already collected from each who desires to give].

We [Paul] —not to speak of you [Corinthians]—will be put to shame by this confidence.

put to shame - *kataischúnō* - to shame, confound, dishonor, disgrace.

by this confidence

for our being so confident

Amplified



⁵ Therefore I considered it necessary to encourage the brothers that they should go before to you and having arranged beforehand the gift, having been previously promised by you, this [gift] to be ready so as [to be] a blessing and not an exaction [on Paul's part]. Interlinear

Therefore I [Paul] considered it necessary to encourage the brothers

- **necessary** - can be a physical need or a moral/spiritual need
- No question in Paul's mind about the necessity of what needed to happen before He arrived in Corinth.

1st - that they [Titus and two others] should go before to you [Corinthians] – to address the issue of “the gift”

2nd - having arranged beforehand “the gift,” having been previously promised by you [Corinthians]

- **having arranged beforehand** - to render fit beforehand



⁵ Therefore I considered it necessary to encourage the brothers that they should go before to you and having arranged beforehand the gift having been previously promised by you, this [gift] to be ready so as [to be] a blessing and not an exaction.

Interlinear

3rd - this [gift] to be ready so as [to be] a blessing and not an exaction [by Paul]

exaction - *pleonexía* – covetous thoughts, plans of fraud and extortion; 2 Cor 9:5 would read not as extorted by us from you

- Since it has been a year, Paul is concerned that the previously promised gifts might be viewed an exaction.

⁶ Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.



Now this I say or but this is the point I wish to make McCalley

- Paul will now relate the idea of giving to that of sowing seed.
- We see in many passages that sowing is related to giving out God's word and the results it produces.
 - Mark 4:20 And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.
- But in giving under grace we see:
- What is given is not lost, but, like the seed sown by the farmer, contrary to all appearances it possesses the potency of life and increase. Hughes via Constable

⁶ Now this / say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.



Now Paul will give us a principle of life!

Merryman

he [the one] who sows sparingly

sparingly - *pheidoménōs* - not plentifully, moderately in measure, slightly

- The word “sparingly” tells us the way in which we are sowing.
- But the motivation must be gracious and not law based.

will also reap sparingly

- So the reaping will be in like manner to the sowing.
- Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.
- Prov 11:24b there are those who withhold more than is fitting or what is justly due, but it results only in want.

⁶ Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.



the one sowing for [the purpose of] a blessing/bounty [to others]

Interlinear expanded*

- Grace giving looks at the benefit of the receiver and not the giver.
- In reality it's God's gift through us as a conduits.*
- Also, God is the only one who can bestow blessing.*

Merryman

shall also reap with a blessing/bounty

- Acts 20:35b remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Final Thoughts*



- Paul was in a settled state about the readiness of the Corinthians' gift.
- Paul is sending Titus and the others to get the Corinthians' gift organized so he (the Macedonians are with him) could receive it when he comes.
- Paul's focus is on the preaching of the gospel and does not want it to be encumbered by the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem.
- This collection from both Macedonia and Achaia was for the glory of God.

* Molloy