

Text: 2 Cor 9.1-15**2 Corinthians:**

Opening (1.1-11)

Addressing Corinthian Perceptions and Paul's Ministry Philosophy (1.12-7.16)

Defending Paul's Conduct (1.12-2.17)

Exposition of Paul's Philosophy (3.1-6.10)

Appeal for Corinthian confidence (6.11-7.16)

Instructions concerning the offering (8.1-9.15)

Assertion of apostolic authority (10.1-13.10)

Conclusion (13.11-14)¹

At this point in Paul's ministry, he is working on raising funds for the church in Jerusalem. It is meant to build stronger ties between the Gentile Christians in his churches and the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem.

Our study today concludes the section on the offering in 2 Corinthians.

I. The example of Macedonia (8.1-6)**II. Motivating Giving (8.7-15)****III. Providing for Accountability (8.16-24)****IV. Necessary preparation for Paul's visit (9.1-5)**

When Paul says it is "superfluous" for him to talk about the offering, what is he saying? (1)

He is providing an emphasis by understatement — sort of like saying, "I really don't need to mention this, but..."

What report is Paul giving in v. 2, and why is he giving it?

He explains he already used them as an example to which stirred up the people of Macedonia to imitate them. He does this to provide further motivation

¹ Adapted from Tom Constable, *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003).

When Paul says “I have sent the brethren” (3a), to whom is he referring?

Titus, the famous brother, and another brother (see 8.16, 18, 22)

Why did he send this team to Corinth? (3b)

To help the Corinthians be ready when Paul arrived

What does Paul mean by v. 4?

To provide further motivation: don't have us show up and you not be ready!

Paul summarizes his plans again in v. 5 and expresses his desire for the gift. What does he desire?

He wants them to be generous and not covetous

V. Benefits of gracious participation (9.6-11)

What principle of giving is expressed in v. 6?

Generosity is the key: the greater generosity, the greater the blessing

Does this mean that generosity is measured by the size of the gift?

No, generosity is measured by the size of the heart

What is the harvest that comes from giving? That is, what does it mean to “reap bountifully”?

That there is a bountiful blessing that comes from giving, but it does not say cash in = more cash out

What is the second principle of giving? (7)

Each individual should make a purposeful spiritual decision about his own giving

Again, what is the spiritual emphasis of this principle?

The spirit: cheerfulness in giving

What is the third principle of giving? (8)

God is able to give you both opportunities and means to minister by giving to others [ILLUSTRATION: When we were in college, most of our fellow students had little money to give to special offerings. Many prayed that the Lord would send them extra so they could give. God answered those prayers.]

Paul quotes Psalm 112.9 here. How does it support the principles of giving? (9)

The psalm speaks of God's reward to the generous giver

What promise is Paul making as he closes out the principles of giving? (10-11)

Paul promises that God will provide the means for all to participate in the offering, so they can enjoy the spiritual blessings that come from giving

VI. Reciprocal fruit of mutual ministry (9.12-15)

What will this offering produce in others? (12)

The recipients will thank God, and others who hear of the gift will thank God ("many thanksgivings")

Why will others give thanks to God for the Corinthian giving? (13)

Because they will see it as evidence of real faith in Christ and the work of the Spirit in their hearts

What other benefit would accrue to the Corinthians? (14)

The recipients would offer prayers to God for the Corinthians in response to their gracious gift

What benediction closes this section? (15)

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift: the Lord Jesus Christ

“The Corinthians did follow through and assemble their gift. It was only a few months after Paul penned 2 Corinthians that he wrote his epistle to the Romans. In that epistle he said that the Christians of Macedonia and Achaia (which included Corinth) had made a contribution to the poor saints in Jerusalem (Rom. 15:26–27). Paul and his delegation then traveled back to Jerusalem from Corinth through Macedonia and Asia Minor (Acts 20:3–21:19). The leaders of the Jerusalem church evidently received the gift gladly (Acts 21:17).”²

² Constable, 2 Co 9.15.