

2 Corinthians 8-9

2 Cor. 1:3-11 – Paul’s confidence in God and the Corinthians expressed as Paul reveals his difficult situation.

2 Cor. 1:12-2:4 – Due to an accuser in the Corinthian church Paul explains why his travel plans changed

2 Cor. 2:5-11 – Paul’s accuser is to be forgiven and restored

2 Cor. 2:12-13 – Paul had gone to Troas to look for Titus...but, Titus was not there...Paul confused, persecuted, and has “no peace of mind.”

2 Cor. 2:14-7:1 – Power is in the message and the ministry of reconciliation. The reward is in the future. Today we are ambassadors, we are clay vessels, we are suffering servants. The glory is in the process of being transformed into the image of the Son of God. There is a problem with some ministers in Corinth (and, in the early church) with trying to make the Gospel and the Word of God relevant for today’s current age. They are seeking victory today instead of serving today and anticipating victory in the future kingdom

2 Cor. 7:2-16 - Paul returns to talking about looking for Titus in Troas (7:5-15) and the Corinthian man who caused the division/problem (7:12). Titus reports that the Corinthians are in agreement with Paul again. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 7:16, “I am glad I can have complete confidence in you.”

Chapter 8 and 9

In chapter eight and nine Paul gives instructions about money that will be collected from the Corinthians and taken by a selected and responsible delegation to believers living in Jerusalem. Paul begins by using the Macedonians as an example of grace giving. Paul gives scriptures best description of financial giving and ties it to the principle of grace, human will along with a promise based on the principle of an appropriate return on the giving. Giving is clearly compared to sowing seeds. These verses are a prosperity teacher’s dream, if they were not preceded by seven chapters of Paul describing his ministry as a state of suffering and then followed by four chapters of the apostle’s most fevered description of false teachers as self-promoting and condemned servants of Satan. The irresponsibly wealthy name-it-claim-it claim it preachers can only hope their listeners are too lazy to read these verses in context.

Giving Guidelines:

1. Giving above your means is the exception (8:3-4)
2. God wants you first, not your money (8:5)
3. Just as you increase in other areas of spiritual growth, you should increase in the amount of giving (8:7)
4. Giving is an outward manifestation of your inner love for God (8:8)
5. Important to complete oaths and vows (8:11)
6. Willingness is the beginning of giving, not the possession of the money (8:12)
7. Give of what we have, not of what we do not have (8:13-15)
8. Equal responsibility, not equal amounts (8:15)
9. Giving begins with God’s Grace. God gave manna (8:15)
10. You need to increase your capacity with the Word (8:15)
11. The distribution as well as giving glorifies God (8:16-21)
12. Give from cheerfulness, not guilt or gimmick (9:7)

8:1 – Ability and desire to give is a “Grace” provide by God

8:2 – Macedonian combined spiritual joy with physical poverty to produce “rich generosity” in the midst of a severe trial.

8:3 – Macedonian believers gave beyond their natural ability

Macedonian believers gave because of their own desire, not because they were manipulated

8:4 – “pleaded” for the “privilege of sharing” in “service to saints.”

This is the “cheerful giver” of 9:9.

8:5 – They responded in the correct sequence by responding to God first and then to man, instead of responding to man first and then to God.

God’s will is that the believer first goes to God for strength, maturity, direction, growth, empowerment, and then go to meet the needs, desires and ministries of man.

8:6 – Paul had begun the collection in 1 Cor. 16:1-4, but Paul had backed away due to the Corinthian confusion. Now, with Titus’ arrival the collection had resumed, and Titus was going to return to finish the collection before Paul arrived. The willingness to lead the people into a giving project indicates the leadership considers them spiritually mature and self-motivated instead of manipulated.

8:7 – Spiritual gifts, spiritual fruit and spiritual maturity will manifest in the believers:

1. Faith
2. Speech
3. Knowledge
4. Earnestness (diligence)
5. Love
6. GIVING – “see that you also excel in this grace of giving”

8:8 –

8:9 –

8:10 –

8:11 –

8:12 –

8:13 –

8:14 –

8:15 –

8:16 –

8:17 –

8:18 –

8:19 –

8:20 –

8:21 –

8:22 –

8:23 –

8:24 –

9:1 –

Philippians 4:18-19

Galatians 6:6