



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Chapter 9

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Introduction

- St. Paul says that he does not need to write about collection because of their known willingness
- Yet he felt it necessary to send the messengers to ensure that their gift is ready, and it was one of generosity and not out of a grudging obligation
- To find them unprepared would be embarrassing to both St. Paul and the Corinthians
- St. Paul reminds them of the principle of sowing and reaping, and that God loves a cheerful giver



Introduction

- He also writes of God's ability to give them an abundance for every good work
- St. Paul prays that God will multiply the seed they have sown so they will be enriched in all things for even more liberality on their part
- The collection will not only supplies the needs of the saints, it will abound in thanksgiving and praise to God
- This prompts St. Paul to give thanks to God

Administering the Gift (9:1-5)



- St. Paul feels that he does not need to write more because they were fully instructed, and had begun the work
- I know your readiness, this is why it seemed superfluous to write
- The churches of the province of Achaia, of which Corinth was the capital
- They had begun the collection a year ago which motivated many others to do the same (2 Cor 8:10)

Administering the Gift (9:1-5)



- He sent them so that they would surely be prepared when he came
- If the Macedonians should find Corinth unprepared with the collection when St. Paul came, after what he had said, it would fill him (and them) with shame
- He thought it needful to send the brethren that the work might surely be completed as an abundant gift, and not as obligation done with complaints

The Cheerful Giver (9:6–15)



- Giving is like sowing
- If there is a spare sowing, there will be spare reaping; if liberal sowing, liberal reaping
- Where one gives by compulsion or grudgingly, he is not approved by God
- The giving must be done cheerfully
- God is able to bestow upon you every blessing, temporal as well as spiritual
- The faithful steward will be trusted with more

The Cheerful Giver (9:6–15)



- As it is written in Psalm 112:9, the man who fears the Lord, does not hold tightly but dispenses abroad by giving to the poor
- His righteousness, right doing in giving, remains for ever, he is supplied with means to keep it up
- God, who can, and does, bless charitable giving, will do so in the case of the Corinthians
- The fruits of your righteousness will be increased, for your means will be increased

The Cheerful Giver (9:6–15)



- As they are enriched, their giving will be with liberality, and this causes thanksgiving to God on the part of the recipients
- Through us: through our service as distributors
- Two things result from the bountiful giving:
 - ❖ The wants of the saints are supplied
 - ❖ Their thanksgiving for the relief glorifies God
- Some Judaizers at Jerusalem doubted whether the Gentile churches were really churches of Christ

The Cheerful Giver (9:6–15)



- Such a gift would tend to open their minds and remove their prejudices and they would admit that the Corinthians are subject to the Gospel of Christ
- Thus, filled with affection for you, and longing for you on account of the proof they had of God's grace to you, they glorify God by prayer for you
- St. Paul bursts out in thanksgiving to God for His gift, which no language can describe
- It is that gift which broken down the old enmity



Conclusion

- What three guidelines does St. Paul give to govern their giving?
- What three men were sent to administer this collection?
- Why were these men handling the collection, and not St. Paul?
- What did St. Paul want the Corinthians to show to these men and the other churches?