

2 Corinthians 8:1—9:15 **Example of the Churches of Macedonia – Advise for fulfilling Pledge**

Grace of God displayed by Churches of Macedonia – Desirable in Corinth

¹ Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: ² that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. ³ For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, ⁴ imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ⁵ And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. ⁶ So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well.

Call to complete what was pledged

⁷ But as you abound in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us--see that you abound in this grace also. ⁸ I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. 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. ¹⁰ And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; ¹¹ but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. ¹² For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have. ¹³ For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; ¹⁴ but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack--that there may be equality. ¹⁵ As it is written, "He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack."

Sending Titus with trusted steward

¹⁶ But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus. ¹⁷ For he not only accepted the exhortation, but being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord. ¹⁸ And we have sent with him the brother whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches, ¹⁹ and not only that, but who was also chosen by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us to the glory of the Lord Himself and to show your ready mind, ²⁰ avoiding this: that anyone should blame us in this lavish gift which is administered by us-- ²¹ providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men. ²² And we have sent with them our brother whom we have often proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, because of the great confidence which we have in you.

Confirming Titus and those with him

²³ If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren are inquired about, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. ²⁴ Therefore show to them, and before the churches the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf.

NKJV

2 Corinthians 9:1-15 **Fulfilling pledge of aid to Jerusalem**

Be Prepared before our arrival

¹ Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you; ² for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority. ³ Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you

should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, you may be ready; ⁴ lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting. ⁵ Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.

Hope in God to help

⁶ But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

"He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰ Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, ¹¹ while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

Return value of the gift

¹² For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, ¹³ while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, ¹⁴ and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✠ The collection is taken from among the Gentile churches to send to the Saints in Jerusalem who are at the center of persecution of the Church, and for the famine predicted by Agabus which came in the days of Claudius Caesar. [[Acts 11:19, 27-30](#), [Romans 15:25-31](#), [1 Corinthians 16:1-4](#)]

Grace of God displayed by Churches of Macedonia – Desirable in Corinth [[2 Corinthians 8:1-6](#)]

- ✠ The grace the Lord bestowed on the churches of Macedonia, was the grace of extraordinary generosity in sending aid to the Saints in Jerusalem.
 - ✧ Out of deep poverty, their zeal to help others resulted in giving far beyond their ability to the point of sacrifice.
 - ✧ This zeal began in hearts that first gave themselves to the Lord, and then imploring Paul and his company with much urgency to take their gift and fellowship for ministering to the Saints.
 - ✧ Paul urged Titus to continue to encourage the Corinthians to follow that example at least to the point of their pledge.

Call to complete what was pledged [[2 Corinthians 8:7-15](#)]

- ✠ Paul acknowledges the abundance the Lord has bestowed upon the Corinthians:
 - ✧ They abound in faith, speech, knowledge, diligence, and their love for Paul and his company.
 - ✧ Now Paul asked them to determine to abound in the grace of generosity also.

- ✧ This is not a command, but to test the sincerity of their love by how they respond to the needs of others.
- ✧ Paul used the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the model of example: Who though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that through His poverty you might become rich.
- ✧ Therefore Paul offered his advice:
- ✧ The previous year, the Corinthians had expressed the desire to help the Saints in Jerusalem, and had pledged to do so.
- ✧ Now, Paul is prompting them to complete what they had pledged according to their earlier readiness and desire out of the abundance they have.
- ✧ God looks at the heart and what one has, not according to what he does not have so it will not be a burden beyond ability.
- ✧ You help others out of your abundance, and others may help you out of their abundance.

Sending Titus with trusted steward [2 Corinthians 8:16-22]

- ✧ Titus not only accepted the exhortation, but went to Corinth of his own accord because God put the same earnest care for the Corinthians in his heart.
- ✧ Along with Titus we are sending the brother who is recognized in the Gospel and praised in all the churches who chose him to travel with Paul and company with the gift they had entrusted to their care.
 - ✧ The gift will be administered by us to the glory of God and to show the readiness of mind of the givers.
 - ✧ The accompanying steward will confirm the administration of the lavish gift to avoid false charges and provide honorable accounting in the sight of the Lord and of men.
 - ✧ Our brother has often proven diligent in many things, and now much more diligent because of our great confidence in you.

Confirming Titus and those with him [2 Corinthians 8:23-24]

- ✧ If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you.
- ✧ If our brethren are inquired about, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.
- ✧ Therefore show to them, and before the churches the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf.

2 Corinthians 9:1-15 **Fulfilling pledge of aid to Jerusalem**

- ✧ The collection is taken from among the Gentile churches to send to the Saints in Jerusalem who are at the center of persecution of the Church, and for the famine predicted by Agabus which came in the days of Claudius Caesar. [Acts 11:19, 27-30, Romans 15:25-31, 1 Corinthians 16:1-4]
- ✧ Corinth is a city of Achaia (Greece).

Be Prepared before our arrival [2 Corinthians 9:1-5]

- ✧ Now concerning the ministering to the Saints:
 - ✧ The previous year, the Corinthians had pledged to send aid to the Saints in Jerusalem, and Paul has been boasting about it to the Macedonians, which has stirred the Macedonians in their zeal to do likewise.
 - ✧ Paul has sent a delegation to Corinth ahead of himself to make sure his boasting was not in vain and to encourage the Corinthians to be ready with the gift when he arrives.
 - ✧ People from Macedonia will be accompanying Paul to Corinth, and Paul does not want to be embarrassed by finding the Corinthians unprepared.
 - ✧ The gift must be a gift of generosity from the heart, and not of obligation.

Hope in God to help [2 Corinthians 9:6-11]

- ✧ Paul then set forth a criterion that has carried down in the Churches through the ages:

- ✧ He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
- ✧ Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.
- ✧ God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.
- ✧ This concept is supported in Scriptures. [[Deuteronomy 15:9-11](#), [Proverbs 19:17](#), [22:9](#), [28:27](#), [Matthew 19:21](#), [Mark 10:21](#), [2 Corinthians 9:8](#)]

"He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever." [[Psalm 112:9](#)]

✧ Paul concluded the request with a blessing:

- ✧ Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. [[2 Corinthians 9:10-11](#)]

Return value of the gift [[2 Corinthians 9:12-15](#)]

✧ The gift supplies for the needs of the Saints.

- ✧ It will also abound in many thanksgivings being raised to God, as the recipient Saints glorify God for your liberal sharing with them and all men.
- ✧ It demonstrates your obedience to your confession of the Gospel of Christ.
- ✧ They will have a longing for you, and will lift you up in their prayers for you, because of the exceeding grace of God seen in you.
- ✧ Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!