

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 15TH-16TH, 2024 // 2 CORINTHIANS

ACCOUNTABILITY (2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-5) ENTHUSIASM

The Corinthians' initial excitement to help Jerusalem had stirred up that same excitement for the Macedonians.

- Whenever we embark on something new, we are typically highly motivated. That initial enthusiasm can even serve to inspire others. **May God bring excitement into our lives!**

BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE

Paul sent Titus and two other Believers to collect the offering, encouraging them and reminding them of what they said.

- There will be times in our walk that **we will need other Believers to remind us of the Truth. We will need them to strengthen and encourage us! We must be in community!**

EMBARRASSMENT

The collection had been sidetracked by "preachers" who were extorting the Corinthians both spiritually and financially.

- Paul didn't want to show up with the Macedonians only to find they weren't ready for the offering and were also in spiritual disorder.

ORDER

Paul didn't want the offering to look like it was done in a way that something was expected in return, but he wanted it to be voluntary. **So Paul made a plan.**

- Once we have committed to something, we can't expect our enthusiasm or motivation to carry us. **God expects us to be wise and plan.**

GENEROSITY (2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11) SOWING GENEROUSLY

A farmer could boost their yield after a growing season by saving most of the seed. However, this action would impact the success of the following season.

- **Similarly, holding onto everything we've "earned" in this season of our lives may hinder the abundance of the next.**

A CHEERFUL GIVER

Our generosity reflects the state of our hearts. **It can be challenging to be generous when we feel entitled to everything.**

- One key to being a cheerful giver is recognizing that **all we have is because of God. As we do, he will transform our hearts!**

GRACE OVERFLOWS

God loves a cheerful giver **because God loves to give!** James states that "every good and perfect gift is from above."

- **God is generous in His provision, forgiveness, patience, mercy, and grace!** Because of this, we can excel in everything we do!

PROVIDE AND MULTIPLY

God will not only provide what we need for generosity but will also multiply it for our righteousness and the good of others.

- **Righteousness is what is right and pleasing to God. God helps us do what is right by renewing our minds and bringing overflow.**

ENRICHED FOR ALL GENEROSITY

Being enriched doesn't mean we will be wealthy but it means we will be provided for so we can be generous!

- The Believers in Jerusalem were in need of help from their fellow Believers in Christ. Despite their poverty and lack, it was unlikely they were not generous with what they had.

RADICAL

There are many Believers locally and around the world who are struggling to survive and suffering for their faith in Christ.

- Like the Corinthians, who were living in comfort and prosperity, we should understand that **our abundance is an opportunity for radical generosity.**

PRAISE (2 CORINTHIANS 9:12-15) THANKSGIVING

Let us remember the Corinthians' gift, which not only was to meet the needs of others but it also offered a cause for gratitude to God.

- **Our giving serves a dual purpose: to address the practical needs of others, and to evoke praise and thanksgiving to God.**

GLORIFY GOD

It wouldn't stop at praise, but God would be glorified because of how He was working in the Corinthians' hearts.

- When we are not generous with what God has given, **it shows the condition of our heart. We can make things look good externally, but our fruit gives us away.**

PRAYING ON THEIR BEHALF

The last benefit that Paul describes that they would receive was the Jerusalem church would be praying for them.

- This is a beautiful reminder to **pray for the generous Christians here and in the world. This will strengthen the Church and increase our love for each other.**

THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

Paul finishes this section of the letter by pointing back to the most important gift of our faith.

- **This gift is Christ's death, resurrection, and our subsequent salvation. It serves as a powerful reminder that God is the ultimate giver of gifts.**

RESPONSIBILITY

- **We must remember that relying on emotional highs, will not help us fulfill what God has called us to do.**
- **In addition to God's supernatural work in us, he also calls us to a life of discipline.**
- **When the thrill of starting something new fades, will you be able to finish?**

GLORIFYING GOD

- **God desires to see His glory.**
- **We can have confidence that He will provide everything we need to see His glory manifested.**
- **We can trust that He will provide for us for every righteous work that is done for His glory. Do we trust He will provide for us as He said?**

BEING GENEROUS

- **An earnestly changed heart that seeks God's glory will find joy in giving.**
- **Through this joy, our act of giving becomes a beautiful form of worship.**
- **As we become more sanctified in Christ, we should increasingly reflect Him. Does your generosity reveal Christ to others?**