

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 16TH, 2024 // 2 CORINTHIANS

## PREPARED (2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-5) UNNECESSARY

Paul knew that the church was ready to give. He was there, heard their voices, and saw their hearts ready to contribute to the need in Jerusalem. He was so confident of their desire that he had bragged to the church in Macedonia about the gift that Corinth would give.

- **Our words and desires matter.**

## STIRRED UP

Paul had shared with excitement that the church in Corinth was ready to give, but in chapter 8, he shared that the Macedonians gave generously. Paul wanted each group to see the excitement of desire lead to the joy of action.

- **Our words and desires to serve and give are incomplete without action.**

## BE READY

Paul sends a stewardship crew to collect the offering before he goes to Corinth. The church had been planning on giving for a year, and these guys would collect the gift that was promised.

- **Spontaneous giving can be enjoyable, but cheerful and generous givers plan to give consistently.**

## WILLING AND GENEROUS

Paul had boasted about Corinth's desire to give, and we see here that they were willing and gave with generous hearts. Paul knows that the real source of their giving wasn't their wallets; it was their hearts.

- **All of our giving should reflect a heart that loves to give.**

## ENRICHED (2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11)

### THE POINT

Paul gives a quick lesson on sowing and reaping: The more you sow, the more you reap. Any farmer will confirm this truth.

- **We must understand that giving isn't losing; it's sowing. We must decide that time, talent, kindness, and money aren't lost when we share them; they are invested in people for God's glory.**

## CHEERFUL GIVING AND OVERFLOWING GRACE

Paul shares again the importance of motive when giving and reveals that God can give overflowing grace.

- **It's not that giving results in more grace; when we give cheerfully, we are more open to seeing God's grace. The more we open ourselves to His grace, the more grace will flow through us to others, and our joy will increase.**

## ENRICHED IN EVERY WAY

As we excel in the good work of giving, we realize that the One who gives the seed (ability) and the bread (results) will give us even more opportunities to sow.

- **This isn't about "prosperity;" it's about provision to live and give more. It's a life that produces thanksgiving to God because we always glorify the One who provides the seed and the growth.**

## OVERFLOWING (2 CORINTHIANS 9:12-15)

### BEYOND THE NEEDS

Paul explains that the physical needs of the church will be met. This is a basic teaching in God's Word: People need food, shelter, and clothing. But Paul knew there is more to life than staying alive.

- **Giving so that others may have is noble. Giving so that God will receive the glory is righteous.**

## CONFESSION OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

They gave because of the grace that was given to them. They gave because they knew that God had provided. They gave because God would be glorified. In essence saying, "God gave everything through His Son, and now we give this offering in His name, and for His glory."

- **Are we giving like this?**

## THANKS BE TO GOD

Paul says that because of the motive of their generosity, others would have a deep affection and pray for them as they thanked God.

- **Cheerful and generous giving doesn't demand appreciation. The motivation for giving is God's glory, not ours. If we aren't "thanked," do we stop giving?**

## RESPONSE

- Giving is a response to need.
- **Seeing basic needs will cause people to want to give.**
- **As followers of Christ, we see meeting needs as opportunities to cheerfully give what God has graciously given to us.**

## MORE

- Money and resources are a good start.
- **We give more than money when we give with the right motive.**
- **When we focus on meeting needs and glorifying God, we give more than we ever thought possible. We will overflow with God's grace to us, through us, and around us.**

## GIFTS

- God is the good gift giver.
- **Receiving is a gift, the ability to give is a gift, overflowing generosity is a gift, and the provision of God's grace is a gift.**
- **All gifts from God are rooted in the gift of Jesus Himself. Following Jesus leads us to respond by giving cheerfully and generously to others. How are we showing the Love of Christ to others? Who do we want to get the glory?**