

## 2Corinthians – Week 38

### I. Quiz on Chapter 9

### II. Review: 2Cor. 9:12-15

- A. Paul shares with the Corinthians the good effects their generosity will have on others:
- i. As patrons, they will be able to supply the needs of the poor saints.
  - ii. As patrons, they will touch the hearts of many, causing them to offer thanksgiving to God.
  - iii. As patrons, they will cause the recipients to develop deep friendship bonds with them.
  - iv. As patrons, they will cause the recipients to pray for their spiritual welfare.
- B. Paul ends this section with a doxology.
- i. He gives thanks (i.e., grace) to God for His inexpressible gift!
    1. There is no greater gift than God sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to become a sacrifice on our behalf!
    2. The gospel of Christ defines the lifestyle of a true Christian, which includes being a cheerful giver!

### III. Continuation – Introduction to Chapter 10

#### A. We have seen, so far, the following...

- i. Paul has defended his directness in the “severe letter” to the Corinthians (2:14-7:3).
- ii. He gloried over their loyalty towards him during Titus’ visit (7:4-16).
- iii. Their desire to make amends encouraged Paul to encourage them to complete their collection and to give generously (ch. 8-9).
- iv. But in chapters 10-13, in preparation for his third visit (cf. 12:14; 13:1), Paul all of a sudden switches from a friendly tone to a much stronger tone:
  1. He fears that some may still be engaging in sinful behavior (12:20-21).
  2. He warns that he may still have to be severe with them when he next visits them (13:10)
  3. He rebukes them from being led away to a different gospel and Jesus (11:2-4).
  4. And from chapter 10, we see Paul defending himself against his critics.
  5. Who are these critics?
    - a. Paul made earlier references to these outsiders, describing them as...
      - i. “*peddlers of God’s word*” – 2Cor. 2:17
        1. The Greek word for peddle means to corrupt.
      - ii. Those who pride themselves of having “*letters of recommendation*” – 2Cor. 3:1
      - iii. Those who do things underhandedly and “*tamper with God’s word*” – 2Cor. 4:2
      - iv. Those “*who boast about outward appearances*” – 2Cor. 5:12
      - v. Those who corrupt and exploit others – 2Cor. 7:2
        1. In this case, these critics have corrupted some of the Corinthians’ views of the apostle Paul.

6. Failure to submit to Paul's apostolic authority would have dangerous consequences.
  - a. This includes the disregarding of Paul's writings as being inspired of God.
  - b. Paul's writings were not to be taken as coming from a man whose pride was hurt but as one whose words were directly coming from God.
  - c. Peter acknowledged Paul's writings as sacred Scripture:
    - i. 2Peter 3:15-16 (ESV), "*And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup> as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.*"

**B. Chapter 10 deals with...**

- i. Paul's response to his critic's accusations of calling him a coward.
  1. They say he was bold when he wrote but was a weakling when face to face.
- ii. Paul's response to his critic's view of him as an ineffectual person.
  1. They used his unimpressive appearance and oratory inabilities to debunk Paul's apostleship and ministry.