

## 2Corinthians – Week 37

### I. Review: 2Cor. 9:7

#### A. Paul addresses each member of the church:

- i. Acceptable giving starts with a heart that is totally surrendered to Christ!
  - ii. The phrase “*as he decided in his heart*” describes a person...
    1. Who does not give “*reluctantly*”
      - a. This describes a person who gives unwillingly.
    2. Who does not give “*under compulsion*”
      - a. This describes a person who gives out of necessity.
    3. But gives cheerfully.
      - a. One who gives bountifully as verse 6 says.
      - b. God loves it when a gift is given with gladness and sincerity of heart!
- B. Paul now explains in the next few verses what he meant by “*whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully*” in verse 6...

### II. Continuation

#### A. 2Cor. 9:8 (ESV), “*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*”

- i. Here, the word “*grace*” in the immediate context refers to monetary resources.
- ii. God will bless the bountiful giver (whether on an individual or congregational level) with resources so that the giver may continue to have his basic needs met while excelling in the ability to help others who are in need!
- iii. The word “*sufficiency*” which comes from the Greek word, “*autarkeia*” (ow-tar-ki-ya) denotes contentment. It is the state of having enough. That is, being satisfied.
  1. It is used in the following passages...
    - a. Phil. 4:11 (ESV), “*Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.*”
  2. Therefore, God makes the cheerful giver content!
    - a. There is no need for anxiety to reign in his mind!
    - b. For God will make sure he has enough to provide for his own!
  3. Paul quotes a verse from a Psalm to prove his point...

#### B. 2Cor. 9:9 (ESV), “*As it is written, ‘He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.’*”

##### i. This is taken from Psalm 112:9.

1. In this psalm, the psalmist describes the God-fearing man distributing material goods to the poor.
2. Therefore, the “*He*” is not referring to God, but the one who trusts in God!
3. The term “*righteousness*” seems to, contextually, point to the act of giving to the poor...
  - a. Consider the words of Jesus in Matthew 6 ...
    - i. Matthew 6:1-4 (ESV), “*Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. <sup>2</sup>Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*”
4. What does “*his righteousness endures forever*” mean?
  - a. This may mean that God will remember his deeds forever (cf. Ps. 112:6)
  - b. Read all of Psalm 112. It is a very encourage passage!

C. 2Cor. 9:10 (ESV), *“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”*

i. False view of this passage:

1. Preachers of “prosperity theology” have used these verses to support their view that God will eventually give you more wealth if you give a generous portion to their ministry.
2. Such “preachers” live in the lap of luxury, thanks to their generous audience, who, in turn, wait to fall into a lap of luxury themselves!
3. This false view makes God out to be a God who enriches people so that they can be like the Rich Fool of Luke 12 who said to himself in verse 19, *“Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”*

ii. Contextual view of this passage:

1. God supplies the seed to the sower (agriculturally: seed to the farmer; metaphorically: material blessings to the cheerful giver).
2. The cheerful giver sows his God-given material blessings to help those in need.
3. As a result, God will increase the harvest of the cheerful giver’s righteousness.
4. Why would God do that?
  - a. So that the cheerful giver can have bigger barns and an abundance of crop for himself? No!
  - b. Paul explains the reason for the increased harvest in the next verse...

D. 2Cor. 9:11 (ESV), *“You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.”*

i. God will bless the cheerful giver in every way (materially or spiritually) so that he may continue to have the opportunity to be generous in every way (materially or spiritually).

ii. And who will give thanks to God for the gifts?

1. The recipients: They will thank God, in this case, for the gift that would come to them through the hands of Paul and his companions.
2. The givers: They will thank God for supplying them with “seed” and a “harvest” so that they can continue to give to others!

E. A noteworthy lesson to us

i. What we do with our money is a litmus test for our relationship to God.

1. If we try to hoard it and spend it all on ourselves, that should set off alarms that our relationship with God is off balance or worse of all, non-existent.
  - a. The rich fool of Luke 12, with his bulging barns and crops, wondered where he could store it all so he could preserve them for himself.
  - b. It apparently never crossed his mind that he had plenty of storage in the mouths of the needy.
2. Those who seek to find ways to use God’s blessings to help others, unlike the rich fool who sought to help himself, are those who are righteous in God’s eyes (cf. 1John 3:7).