
II CORINTHIANS 8

1 We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; **2** for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. **3** For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, **4** begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—**5** and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, **6** so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. **7** Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

8 I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. **9** For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. **10** And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— **11** now finish doing it, so that our eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. **12** For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. **13** I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between **14** your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. **15** As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

24 Therefore openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.

II CORINTHIANS 9

1 Now it is not necessary for me to write you about the ministry to the saints, **2** for I know your eagerness, which is the subject of my boasting about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year; and your zeal has stirred up most of them. **3** But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you may not prove to have been empty in this case, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be; **4** otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—in this undertaking. **5** So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion. **6** The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **7** Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. **9** As it is written, “God scatters abroad, and gives to the poor with righteousness that endures forever.” **10** God, 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. **11** You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; **12** for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. **13** Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, **14** while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that has been given you. **15** Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!