

## GOD'S PROMISES WHEN GRACE-GIVING (2 Corinthians 9)

- A. The EXCELLING of GRACE-GIVING: observe the CHURCHES of MACEDONIA. (8:1-8)
- B. The EPITOME of Grace-Giving: observe the LORD JESUS CHRIST. (8:9)
- C. The EXCUSES & PROBLEMS for NOT Grace-Giving. (8:10-24)
- D. The EXHORTATION and PROMISES regarding Grace-Giving. (9:1-15)

**The PUBLIC EXHORTATION about Grace-Giving. (9:1-5)** 1 *Now concerning the ministering to the saints* {the grace fund collection}, *it is superfluous* {not necessary} *for me to write to you* {though he continues}; 2 *for I know your willingness* {eager/willing mind to help}, *about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia* {where the Corinthian church was located} *was ready a year ago; and your zeal* {to participate} *has stirred up the majority* {most believers that had heard about this grace collection including the Macedonian believers}. 3 *Yet I have sent the brethren* {Titus & 2 unnamed brothers}, *lest our boasting of you should be in vain* {empty talk} *in this respect, that, as I said, you may be ready* {prepared} ; 4 *lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed* {embarrassed, humiliated} *of this confident boasting* {that Paul had of the Corinthians giving}.

5 *Therefore I thought* {to arrive at a conclusion based upon the facts and not one's feelings} *it necessary to exhort* {exhort, urge} *the brethren* {Titus and the 2 unnamed brothers} *to go to you ahead of time* {of Paul's arrival}, *and prepare your generous gift beforehand* {to arrange in advance this collection} *which you had previously promised* {regarding giving to this collection}, *that it may be ready as a matter of generosity* {freely willing generosity as motivated by grace} *and not as a grudging obligation* {a grudging obligation due to one's personal covetousness; not an obligation you feel forced to do by guilt under pressure}.

**What can we learn from all this about ministry?** “Ministry takes place when \_\_\_\_\_ meet \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_. The trouble with too many of us is that we think God called us to be manufacturers when He really called us to be \_\_\_\_\_. He alone has the resources to meet human needs; all we can do is \_\_\_\_\_ His riches and \_\_\_\_\_ them with others. In ministry, we are channels of God's resources, not reservoirs. {Warren Wiersbe, On Being A Servant of God, pgs. 5 & 7} The divine resources God provides His servants for ministry is all about His \_\_\_\_\_, not our own human resources. (1 Corinthians 15:10) As we reckon by faith upon our identity or position in Christ {dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord - Romans 6:11} and then present ourselves to the Lord for His will and service {Romans 6:13, 12:1}, He will direct, enable, and use us along with whatever He has given us to minister to others in love by the power of the Holy Spirit. {1 Peter 4:10-11}

*While they had promised to give a generous offering to meet these Jewish believers needs, they also could faith-rest in several of God's precious promises when it comes to their grace-giving.*

### **The PROMISES of GOD when Grace-Giving. (9:6-14)**

1. God promises that you will \_\_\_\_\_ to the degree that you \_\_\_\_\_; so sow \_\_\_\_\_ in your giving and reap \_\_\_\_\_ because of it – but this takes \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Cor. 9:6) *But this I say* {this is the point or promise}: *He who sows sparingly* {in his giving} *will also reap* {as a promise – future, active, indicative} *sparingly, and he who sows bountifully* {generously} *will* {as a promise} *also reap bountifully* {generously}. Paul is quoting Prov. 11:24,25; see also Prov. 19:17; Luke 6:38; Gal. 6:7.

2. God promises that He \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ giver; so you need to GIVE as you have \_\_\_\_\_ in your heart – but this takes \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Cor. 9:7) *So* {in view of these promises and by way of application} *let each one* {as giving is an individual response for all believers} *give as he* {not the church or pastor} *purposes* {decides} *in his heart* {as he ponders and prays about this}, *not grudgingly* {not out of grief, reluctance, regret, painful obligation} *or of necessity* {out of a sense of duty or compulsion}; *for God loves* {agapes} *a cheerful* {cheerful, joyous, delighted} *giver* {not one who simply intends to give}.
3. God promises to meet \_\_\_\_\_ by His abundant grace as you graciously give as unto Him – but this takes \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Cor. 9:8-9) *And God is* {present, active, indic. of dunateo – is able, is powerful} *able* {able; powerful; strong} *to make all* {all or every} *grace* {His undeserved blessings and provisions} *abound* {superabound, overflowing - 8:2 (2x), 8:7 (2x), 8:14 (2), 9:8, 14} *toward you* {context - when believers grace-give as unto Him}, *that* {hina - introduces a purpose clause} *you* {who give}, *always* {at all times} *having all* {all or every} *sufficiency* {a condition where every need is met} *in all things, may have an abundance* {superabundance} *for every good work* {including grace-giving - Eph. 2:10; Titus 3:8,14}. **9** *As it is written* {quote - Psalm 112:9}: "*He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.*"
4. God promises to use your grace-giving to \_\_\_\_\_ your spiritual life (9:10) and to \_\_\_\_\_ to others – but this takes \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Cor.9:10-11) *Now may He* {God} *who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply* {optative mood} *and multiply* {optative mood} *the seed you have sown* {through your grace-giving to others} *and increase* {optative} *the fruits of your righteousness* {alluding back to Ps. 112:9} , **11** *while you are* {being} *enriched* {by God practically while you are giving} *in everything for all liberality* {generosity - we are blessed to be a blessing to others}, *which* {generous grace-giving} *causes* {causes or produces a crop of} *thanksgiving* {eucharista} *through us* {the instruments or distributors} *to God* {acknowledging God is the ultimate source and means of grace to make it all happen}
5. God promises that your grace-giving will result in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to God by the benefitted recipients – but this takes \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Cor. 9:12-13) *For* {hoti - because of} *the administration of this service* {the collection is viewed as a priestly service given in worship to God} *not only* {fully} *supplies the needs* {not wants} *of the saints* {in Judea}, *but also is abounding* {overflowing} *through many thanksgivings* {eucharistas} *to God* {acknowledging that God is the ultimate source and means of all this}, **13** *while, through the proof of this ministry* {of grace-giving}, *they glorify* {to praise, extol, magnify} *God* {acknowledging that God is the ultimate source and means of all this} *for the obedience* {submissive obedience} *of your* {these largely Gentile believers} *confession* {verbal proclamation} *to the gospel of Christ* {which teaches that Jews and Gentile believers are one in Christ}, *and for your liberal* {generous} *sharing* {participation} *with them and all men,*
6. God promises that your grace-giving will be \_\_\_\_\_ by their \_\_\_\_\_ for you – but this takes \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Cor. 9:14a) *and by their prayer for* {huper – on your behalf} *you,*
7. God promises that your grace-giving will be used to practically \_\_\_\_\_ fellow-believers in Christ because of the \_\_\_\_\_ – but this takes \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Cor.9:14b) *and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding* {exceeding, surpassing, extraordinary} *grace of God* {where the credit again needs to go} *in you.*

**The PRAISE to GOD for Grace-Giving:** \_\_\_\_\_ {charis} **be to** \_\_\_ **for His** \_\_\_\_\_ **! (9:15)**

- How does all this apply to you?