

Letters to the church in...



Corinth

Focus: 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Lesson 26-Giving Hearts and Spiritual Prosperity

- **The need of the Corinthians being ready to supply the promised gift (v.1-5)**
 - (v.1,2) *An example of zeal and desire to give was made. A zeal for giving that also inspired others. Achaia was the land mass just below the city of Corinth and on which Corinth was situated.*
 - (v.3-5) *Paul felt it necessary to send someone before him to be sure the Corinthian's offering was entirely ready (the offering for Judea/Jerusalem that is). It might have been a shame before the Macedonians if Corinth had not pulled through with their financial gift as had been boasted of them.*
- **Sowing and reaping a bountiful harvest (v.6,7)**
 - (v.6) *The principles of giving are listed for us here. This principle is true in the physical sense of planting crops, but it's also very true in the spiritual sense as well. In financial gifts, as well as other kinds, **we must seek to be a blessing to others. The blessings reaped will be amazing!***
 - ***Even with the blessing of friendship, the blessings will come back to you. "A man who has friends must show himself friendly..." (Proverbs 18:24). When you give blessings of love to others, then many blessings of love will come back into your own life as well. This works in the family, the work place, or wherever!***
 - (v.7) ***"...for God loves a cheerful giver."*** *Making appeals for means among God's people is very biblical. **God appeals to his people through His chosen servants and desires that wonderful things will be accomplished in His name and for His glory! We can see how this has been worked out through history, and how it must be worked out in our day as well. We can see this exemplified and worked out with the work of building up God's Temple sanctuary throughout history since the time of Moses.***
 - *An Appeal with overflowing response: **Exodus 25:1-8; 35:4-10, 21,29; 36:5-7.***
 - *King Joash and King Josiah's appeals: **2 Kings 11:21; 12:2,4-9, 14,15;** Josiah, 2 Kings 22:4-7.*
 - ***The Lord's Spiritual Temple: These days there is a work that must be done! Ephesians 2:19-22! It's time to build up the Lord's Temple and His spiritual walls while not just living here to fatten up ourselves (ref. Haggai 1:9).***
 - ***Not only do we have a need for means in God's work, but we especially have a need for consecrated workers and laborers for God!! "...the laborers are few...pray therefore that the Lord of the harvest will send laborers..." (Matthew 9:37,38). "Cast your bread upon the waters..." (Ecclesiastes 11:1-6).***

- **“...he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly...” (v.6). Will you come to the Lord today? And will you choose to share His love and saving truth with others? (The gospel commission of Christ is to go, to teach, and to share His holy message to all nations!- Matthew 28:18-20).**
- **The abundant blessings for everyone that come as we give unto the Lord (v.8-15)**
 - (v.9,10) *The Lord gives not just for physical needs, but also spiritual blessings!*
 - (v.11) *Having a generous and liberally giving heart is something to truly rejoice about.*
 - (v.12) *-Fills an immediate need and also brings many thanksgivings and praises to God.*
 - (v.13) *Other will rejoice to hear of your true conversion to God, plus they will rejoice for your generous gift to them and to others. **Giving is a blessing all the way around!!** And we have the words of Christ to remind us, **“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35)**. Our spiritual life and blessings will grow as we give all we are to God and others, in His service.*
 - (v.14,15) *Thanks and praise be to God for the gift of His grace and His true conversion in you (the Corinthians). **Have we experienced the converting power of God in our own lives? “God so loved the world that He gave...” (John 3:16).***

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you choose to be giving towards God? _____ Giving Him your heart first; your willing service second; and a generous giving heart of means as well: _____