### 2 Corinthians

## Chapter 9

1Regarding the collections for the Holy Ones:  
  
I really don’t have to write anything about this to you, 2for I know how eager you’ve been. I’ve even bragged to the Macedonians about you, telling them that Achaia has been ready for a year now, and your zeal has been an incentive to most of them.  
  
3So at this time, I’m sending the brothers [to you] to prove that our boasting about you hasn’t been in vain… And I hope that you’re ready, as I said you’d be. 4Otherwise, if the Macedonians should come with me and find that you aren’t ready, we’d be shamed by the assurances we gave them.  
  
5So, I thought it’d be best to encourage the brothers to come to you ahead of time in order for you to start collecting the generous gift that you promised. That way, what’s given will, in fact, be a generous gift and not something that we’ve extorted from you!  
  
6Remember that those who plant little will harvest little, while those who plant much will harvest much. 7So, may each of you do whatever you’ve resolved in your hearts… But not grudgingly or because you feel pressured, since...  
  
 ‘God loves a cheerful giver.’ [Proverbs 22:8, LXX]  
  
8Moreover, God is able to show all of His loving kindness towards you, so that you can have more than enough of everything and an abundance of good deeds!  
  
9As it is written:  
  
 ‘They contribute to those who are needy,  
 And throughout the ages, they prove themselves just.’  
 [Psalm 112:9]  
  
10Therefore, may the One who supplies an abundance of seeds to the farmers and plenty of bread to the hungry, supply (and even multiply) the seeds that you need for planting, and may He increase your harvests because of your righteousness, 11so that you’ll be made rich because of your generosity…  
  
Yes, thank God for that!  
  
  
12For the purpose of this community service isn’t just to supply the [physical] needs of the Holy Ones abundantly, but also to [make you] rich through their many words of thanks to God.  
  
13Realize that the proof of the value of the service [you’re performing] is when others glorify God because of your generous contributions to them and to everyone else, as you continue to obey and preach the good news about the Anointed One.  
  
14And this is why they’re praying for you and are longing [to see] you… Because of the tremendous loving care that God has shown to them through you.  
  
15Yes, thanks to God for His indescribable gifts!