(i.e. ‘are of the churches, what we are of  
the Lord’—persons sent out with authority), **the glory of Christ** (i.e. men whose work tends to Christ’s glory).

**24.]  
Shew then** (continue to shew) **to them  
the proof of your love** (‘*to us,*’ or perhaps, ‘*to your poor brethren*:’—but the  
former is more likely), **and of our boasting concerning you, in the sight of the  
churches.**

**IX. 1—5.]** *He recurs to the collection  
itself, and prays them that they would  
make good before the brethren his boasting of them, and prepare it before his  
own coming.*

**1.]** The connexion with  
the last verse is thus, ‘I beseech you  
to receive the brethren whom I send,  
courteously: for concerning the *duty of  
ministration to the saints,* it is surely  
superfluous for me to write to you who  
are so prompt already.” No new subject  
begins, as some have supposed; nor is there  
any break in the sense at all. Some obscurity has been introduced unnecessarily,  
by taking **the ministration for the saints**for *merely this collection which is now  
making* : whereas the Apostle chooses such  
general terms as a mild reproof to the  
Corinthians, who, well aware as they were  
of the duty of ministering to the saints,  
were yet somewhat remiss in this particular example of the duty. There is an  
emphasis on **write**, inasmuch as those  
who carried this letter would be present witnesses of their conduct.

**2.] for** (ground of this non-necessity of  
his writing) **I am aware of your readiness,  
of which I am in the habit of boasting  
concerning you to Macedonians** (Bengel  
remarks on the present tense, that St. Paul  
was therefore still in Macedonia), **that  
Achaia** (he does not say *ye*—he is relating  
his own words to the Macedonians) **hath  
been ready** (viz. *to send off the money:*  
and that consequently nothing remained  
but for authorized persons to come and  
collect it. The Apostle, judging by their  
readiness, had made this boast concerning  
them, supposing it was really so. That  
this is the sense is shewn by ver. 4) **from  
last year: and the zeal which proceeds  
from you** (‘which has its source in you,  
and whose influence goes forth from you’)  
**stirred up very many of them** (but not  
*only* the example of your zeal: see ch. viii.  
1).

**3.] Yet** (contrast, not to his  
boasting above: implying fear lest he  
should have been making a vain boast  
concerning them) **I sent** (epistolary past,  
asin ch. viii. 18, 22) **the brethren, in order  
that our [matter of] boasting concerning  
you may not in this particular be proved  
empty** (‘that our boast of you, so ample  
and various—ch. vii. 4, may not break  
down in this one department.’ Estins  
well calls it “a sharp exhortation of the  
Apostle combined with tacit praise”):  
**that, as I said** (when? in ver. 2? or,  
in his boasting to the Macedonians? or,  
in 1 Cor. xvi. 1?—Most naturally, *in ver. 2.*If he had meant, *to the Macedonians*, it  
would probably have been “*I am saying*.”  
as *I boast* above: if *in 1 Cor. xvi.,* it would  
have been more clearly expressed.—If so,