

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**II CORINTHIANS 9****II Corinthians 9**

Living to give! This is the attitude of generosity that is inherent in the life of followers of Jesus. Paul has spent several paragraphs writing to the Corinthians to be prepared to do what they promised they would do when he shared with them the plight of the church in Jerusalem. Paul would now be picking up the gift himself, God willing, or he would send someone to receive what they had gathered. Paul reminded them that they should be taking up an offering from the people each week and that every church member should be laying aside something out of the blessings of God and out of any abundance they may have. Every person was to give a willing, freewill love offering and not to do this out of a sense of obligation but rather as a blessing. Remember, he is speaking of a special purpose offering, not the tithes that were expected from every believer to give God His rightful place in their lives and to say "thank you" for all He had given to them.

Paul sent someone ahead of his picking up the offering "so they would be ready and not embarrassed" when the offering was given or, God forbid, not be prepared. Paul also told them that he had boasted of the Corinthians to the poor Macedonians concerning the gift they would give. Expectations of the Macedonians

would be very high and, therefore, would be expecting a joyful church at Corinth, ready to share their blessings with the mother church in Jerusalem.

"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written:

***"He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever."***

(II Corinthians 9:6-9)

The word for "Cheerful" in v.7 is the Greek word **ἡλάρως**, transliterated letter for letter into English, **hilaros**. "Won over, already inclined" is only used in 2 Cor 9:7, where it describes spontaneous "non-reluctant giving."

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord Jesus, You know everything about us, our hearts, not just what we do, but why we do it. Please help me develop a generous heart to say thank you for Your great gift of life, salvation, and the privilege to serve others through sharing. Amen