

Rewards for Christian Giving

2 Corinthians 9

2 Corinthians 9: Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you; 2 for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority. 3 Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, you may be ready; 4 lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting. 5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation. 6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 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. 9 As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad; He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." 10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. 12 For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, 13 while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, 14 and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Background Notes

In 2 Corinthians 8 Paul began the subject of the collection that he was making for the poor and needy saints of the Jerusalem church. Paul had mentioned this collection in 1 Corinthians 16, and the Corinthians had made a good start, but they had not finished the project. In 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, Paul urged them to finish the job. In verse 1, perhaps with some irony, he said that he really didn't need to write much about this subject because he knew that they were ready to give!

The brethren who were coming to Corinth to oversee the collection (v3) were Titus and two other reliable men (mentioned at the end of chapter 8). Paul would also be coming sometime after the Titus team, and perhaps he might bring some of the Macedonian brothers with him.

In the rest of the chapter, Paul taught the truths about the rewards for Christian giving. These truths should motivate the Corinthians to give, and they should motivate us as well. In chapter 8, Paul gave seven principles for Christian giving, and in chapter 9, he gave seven rewards for Christian giving.

Doctrinal Points

1. Believers will receive rewards for Christian giving.

Under this Doctrinal Point there are seven sub-points - seven rewards for Christian giving.

a. You will receive unlimited blessings.

Verses 6-7: *“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.”* You will receive unlimited blessings! Even the most lucrative schemes or sweepstakes of this world have limits to their purses, but not so with Christian giving! The amount of blessing that we reap is limited only by the manner of our sowing. In Luke 6:38 the Lord Jesus said, *“Give and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.”*

Let's not give sparingly, or hold back in a stingy way. Let's give purposefully, willingly, cheerfully, and on the basis of blessing - how the Lord has blessed us financially. If we give this way, we will reap on the basis of blessings. We will receive unlimited help and happiness and reward. The reward of unlimited blessings is not proven by statistics, but by your own experience. Try giving and see for yourself!

b. Your needs will be met.

Verse 8: *“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.”* God is willing and able to supply us with everything necessary to meet our personal needs, as well as the needs of our ministry of giving. Notice that the Scripture does not say that the Lord will give us all that we **want!** God knows us better than we know ourselves. He will meet our true **needs** – but He doesn't promise to give us our many selfish wants.

The word *“grace”* (v8) certainly indicates that God is thinking of more than just material needs. What do you need? More strength to get through this semester as a student? More patience with your roommate? More understanding in the relationships with your children, or fellow workers at your job, or your spouse? More courage to stand for Christ? More help for the ministry that God has given you? More tolerance for Christians who don't want to help in your ministry? More love and tenderness with people who rub you the wrong way? More ideas for your fellowship group?

Well, it's all there! Notice how many times the word **“all”** is mentioned in this verse! **All** - everything! – that you need as an individual child of God, and **all** - anything! – that you need for the area of responsibility that God has given you – **all of that** is readily available! But remember - we're talking about rewards for Christian *giving* - not about miserly, hoarding Christians who are unwilling to share in the areas of time, talent, and treasure.

c. You will always have resources for giving.

The promise of verse 8 definitely extends to our needs in Christian service. You'll never have to say, "I don't have anything left to give." God promises to supply all the needs of every ministry He gives us.

Verses 10-11 also emphasize a promise of a constant supply for giving. You will be supplied with plenty of seed for sowing (v10) and you will be enriched in everything for all generosity (v11). In Christian giving, the well will never run dry!

d. Your record of giving will endure forever.

Verse 9: *"As it is written:" He has dispersed abroad, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.*" That's something to think about. The records of famous heroes and stars of this world will be forgotten, but the record of simple Christians who gave of themselves will be remembered **forever!** Your Christian giving of time and effort and your unsung output may not be recognized or appreciated now, but it will be for all eternity. So keep your sights set on retirement in Heaven, not in Florida! You **can** "take it with you" when it comes to your reward for Christian giving! In fact, all believers will take their record of Christian giving with them into eternity. It's a sobering thought that for some Christians, this may not be much of a reward.

e. Your returns will be according to the natural law of multiplication.

Verse 10: *"Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness."* The "Law of Multiplication" goes beyond the principle of "you reap what you sow." God has designed the laws of nature so that you reap **more** than you sow.

This incredible principle is just as true and miraculous in the spiritual realm as in the natural realm. What a fantastic reward for those Christians who think they only have a small "drop in the bucket" to give. The Law of Multiplication says that one drop can be multiplied into bucketfuls!

Give a drop of your limited ability to the evangelistic project in your church or on your campus, and a whole community of people can be blessed. Give a drop of your busy schedule to help a neighbor, or share the gospel with a colleague at work, and a whole life can be turned around for God. Give a drop of your hard earned cash to the printing and distribution of just one Bible in a foreign country, and the living Word of God can be read and obeyed by many believers for years to come!

f. You are given credit for contributing to the glory of God.

Verses 11-13: *"While you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men."*

In these verses we learn that the results of the Corinthians' giving to the church at Jerusalem would go far beyond the mere supplying of the needs of the Christians there. Thanksgiving would actually ascend to God in Heaven, and these thanksgivings would bring glory to God.

These verses show how Christian giving differs significantly from giving to this world's charitable organizations. While we can be thankful for, and contribute to, some of these good organizations that assist worthy causes, we must recognize that they do not give specifically in the name of Christ.

Giving in the name of Christ not only meets needs, but it also carries with it the reward of specifically contributing to the glory of God. Normally we don't think of this reward when we make an encouraging phone call to a hurting brother or sister, or when we give a few dollars to help a kid go to a Christian camp - but as thanksgivings ascend to God from the recipients of our giving, we are given credit for contributing to the glory of God.

g. You will be prayed for by other believers.

Verse 14: *"And by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you."* How many people are praying for you right now? Some Christians only get prayed for when they're sick, or elderly, or backslidden. As we begin to give of ourselves, we find that a solid foundation of prayer support will begin to materialize beneath us. Every little bit of Christian giving not only meets the needs of others, but also builds prayer protection and support for the giver in return.

Verse 15 is certainly a fitting conclusion to this Scripture passage about the rewards for Christian giving, *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"* All the rewards for Christian giving are only possible because God gave Himself for us. *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"*

Practical Application

Get the most for your dollar!

How do you get the most for your dollar – the most "bang for your buck"? Give it to the Lord! What better investment could you make? Think of the rewards that we just mentioned, and the glory that God will receive. The gift of just one dollar can actually bring glory to the God of this universe. Why not loosen up your purse strings, and get the most for your dollar?