

LESSON 9
GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER
2 CORINTHIANS 8:16—9:15



1 Why do some people think that all the church wants is money?

2 Complete this sentence: People would give more eagerly to the church if . . .



Read 2 Corinthians 8:16—9:15 and the following notes:

☐ 9:3–5 ☐ 9:6–8 ☐ 9:7 ☐ 9:10 ☐ 9:12–15

3 How is Christian giving described (8:24; 9:5, 6)?

4 What benefits result from giving (9:6, 10–14)?

5 How does God want us to give (9:7)?

6 What does God promise those who give generously (9:6, 8)?

The Corinthians had promised to give money to the church in Jerusalem. In this section of his letter, Paul encouraged them to keep their promise. But even as he did so, he cautioned them to give willingly, “for God loves the person who gives cheerfully” (9:7). It is easy to be cynical about the church’s need for money. But God’s work needs our support. Whether it is church or missionary work, somebody has to pay the bills. God’s people are responsible to do so. And how we give reflects our attitude toward God. That’s why God loves giving that comes freely and joyfully from the heart.



7 What is so important about our attitude in giving?

8 Why does it make sense for us to give cheerfully?

9 What happens when we give cheerfully?



10 When do you find it easy to give cheerfully to God?

11 What motivates you to give?

12 How can you make sure that your giving is not done “reluctantly or in response to pressure” (9:7)?



13 This month, develop a giving plan that will honor God and reflect your heart commitments. If necessary, involve a friend or another Christian who can help you. When can you begin, and who can help you?

A How did Titus and the unnamed workers help Paul (8:16–24)? How can you help God's workers?

B What did Paul do to head off suspicion about the way the gift for the Jerusalem church was delivered (8:18–21)? What precautions can Christians take today to avoid suspicion about their actions?

C What are the advantages and disadvantages of the offering being taken in the worship service at a church? What suggestions do you have for ways collections can be taken and used?

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